

1 01-06-87 10:44 pps

TUCSON (UPI) _ Slipshod wiring prevented a car bomb from exploding and causing serious injury to a high school principal who has campaigned heavily against narcotics on campus, authorities say.

"Anytime you're in my position _ a high school principal _ you're going to step on some toes," Tucson High School principal Edward Arriaga said Tuesday. "You're going to make somebody mad."

Apparently he did. Arriaga, 42, was preparing to return to work Monday from a two-week vacation, but his district-owned car would not start.

Four hours later, mechanics found a bomb consisting of four Mexican-made fireworks attached to the vehicle's ignition by an electrical wire, but the wiring was faulty and the device did not explode, said Tucson Police Detective Brandy Kaldous.

Kaldous said each of the fireworks was at least twice as powerful as a cherry bomb and that the device could have caused serious injury.

He refused to comment on the status of the investigation.

Arriaga said the car had been idle in the driveway of his home in the San Clemente neighborhood, near Reid Park, since Saturday. He said the doors were locked, but the windows were open "low enough to allow a bent coat hanger to get in."

"I'm still assuming it's not a student at Tucson High (who planted the bomb)," Arriaga said. "I've got nothing to base that one, just my feeling that it isn't."

Arriaga has taken a strong stand in the community and at the school against illegal drugs.

There have been two expulsions in the current school year for the sale and distribution of narcotics on campus, he said, adding that he doubted those cases were linked to the attempted bombing.

Tucson High is the city's oldest and has 2,100 students, 68 percent of whom are minorities, Arriaga said.

(01X¶

1 10-09-87 04:04 ped

Motley Crue trial nears start

ATHENS, Ala. (UPI) _ The Alabama Supreme Court has upheld a Limestone County judge's decision to try a civil suit in Athens instead of Huntsville where a teenager was blinded at a Motley Crue rock concert.

Attorney Jimmy Alexander said the Supreme Court ruled about two weeks ago.

He's the attorney for a boy who filed a lawsuit after he was blinded in the right eye by flying debris from a fireworks display at the 1985 concert.

As a result, he said, the trial will be conducted in Limestone County Circuit Court by the end of the year.

The four members of rock group Motley Crue apparently will not be called to testify, Alexander said. They gave depositions in July at a Memphis motel.

Robert Miller, 16, of Piney Chapel is seeking \$1 million for the loss of his eye. Another youth, David Wright of Scottsboro, seeks \$200,000 for facial cuts from the allegedly wayward pyrotechnics at a concert at the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville.

Also named in the suit were the city of Huntsville, the production company, the civic center and the civic center board.

Huntsville attorneys had argued that since the incident took place in Huntsville the case should be tried there. They also argued that suits against municipalities must be heard in that city's county.

Alexander claimed that since the production company for the group, Sound Seventy, was not licensed as a foreign corporation to do business in Alabama, state law provides for trial in any county in the state.

The court upheld Limestone Circuit Judge Henry Blizzard's refusal to transfer the trial to Madison County.

4 10-10-87 01:22 aed

Arson suspected in fireworks blaze

JASPER, Tenn. (UPI) _ State fire officials suspect arson in a blaze _ described by one witness as "the Fourth of July in October" _ that destroyed a fireworks store on Interstate 24.

A truck was driven through the front of the Wet Willy fireworks store shortly before the blaze began early Friday morning, causing investigators to suspect the fire was set, said Luanne Grandinetti, a spokeswoman for the state fire marshal's office.

"It appears to be arson," Grandinetti said. "We are still investigating. We had an investigator on the scene this morning pretty early. The truck was driven through the front. As far as I know, no one has been found on the scene."

No one was found injured near the fire, a dispatcher for the Jasper Police Department said.

About 50 people were temporarily evacuated from the nearby Roy Acuff Country Inn when the fire started. The Western Sizzlin' restaurant, about 20 feet from the fire, was not damaged.

"It was like we had the Fourth of July in October here this morning," said Renee Saylor, executive manager of the Western Sizzlin'. Saylor said she was on the scene about half an hour after the fire started.

Fireworks "have been going off all morning," she said.

The truck that crashed through the store had no license plates, she said.

Marion County authorities received the fire call about 3:30 a.m. Firefighting units from throughout the county battled the blaze, assisted by firefighters from Sequatchie County and from Stevenson and Bridgeport, Ala.

Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and the state Safety Department's automobile theft division are helping investigate the fire, Grandinetti said.

She said it was not known Friday whether the truck had been stolen.

8 06-08-88 10:03 ped

Officials announce major illegal fireworks seizure

BALTIMORE (UPI) _ Nearly 1.2 million pieces of illegal fireworks were seized at the Port of Baltimore as part of a national crackdown called Operation Eastern Thunder aimed at keeping the dangerous

materials out of the country, officials announced.

The project has turned up nearly seven million pieces of illegal fireworks nationwide, with an estimated domestic retail value of about \$1 million, officials said Wednesday.

"We've been monitoring the ports of Baltimore, Miami, Philadelphia, and Charleston for shipments of fireworks which do not meet safety regulations," said Terrence Scanlon, Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Together with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs Service and the Department of Transportation, the CPSC designed the operation to stop the import and distribution of illegal and hazardous fireworks responsible for thousands of serious injuries every year, said Scanlon.

"Last year, there were some 9,000 hospital treated injuries caused by fireworks," said Scanlon. "They usually occur right about this time."

Flanked by scores of boxes containing hundreds of illegal pieces, Scanlon pointed to various fireworks that were to be distributed to the general public.

The fireworks can be in violation of any number of regulations, including carrying improper warning labels, having unstable bases, using defective fuses, and powder overloading, officials said.

One such piece, "The Dragon Head", resembles a Hershey's chocolate kiss candy.

"You can imagine a little child with one of these in his hands," said Scanlon, adding that candy look-alike explosives are illegal.

Fireworks that are imported into the United States must be tested and put into explosives classes by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"Class C fireworks are the least hazardous, and come in as general cargo," said Officer Kevin Blackwell of the USCG Marine Safety Office. "The inspections revealed Class B fireworks being shipped as Class C."

And the fireworks seized under the multiagency program had neither been tested nor approved for shipment, officials said.

While illegal mail order fireworks are still getting into the country, Scanlon said he believes the operation has put a stop to part of the import business.

"We have made a tremendous dent in the total number of illegal fireworks being imported into the U.S.," said Scanlon.

"We took it from roadside to dockside. This is revolutionary for us," Scanlon said.

1 06-09-88 09:08 aed

Dayton cancels July 4 fireworks show

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ The city has cancelled fireworks displays until an investigation uncovers the cause of a May 29 fireworks accident that injured 27 people.

"I just don't know a safe way to put on a show, based on what happened," said Fire Chief Glenn Alexander, who ordered the ban.

An errant rocket struck spectators during the city's River Fest display last month. The fire department is awaiting results of

laboratory tests on shell fragments gathered from the site to see if they offer clues on the cause of the accident.

The ban means the cancellation of the annual fireworks show at Welcome Stadium in Dayton. The Dayton Philharmonic concert will be held as usual, said the show's sponsors, Citizen's Federal Savings & Loan.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit was filed Wednesday in Montgomery County Common Pleas Court by John and Ruby Cox and their three children. The lawsuit said the mother and the children suffered burns when the rocket went astray.

Among the defendants named in the suit are the city of Dayton, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, and the sponsors of the show, the National Fireworks Ensemble and San Diego Fireworks Inc.

It was the third lawsuit filed in connection with the accident.

A claims examiner for the company insuring San Diego Fireworks said insurance representatives were at the River Fest display.

"Our people on the scene believe it was highly unlikely, with the distances between the display and the crowd, that it came from our shoot," Michael Gromme said.

Fire department officials have said the rocket probably came from the company's launching pad.

2 06-09-88 02:55 ped

City takes aim on illegal fireworks

By SHEILA MULLAN

PITTSBURGH (UPI) _ The city has formed a squad of police officers and firefighters to crack down on the sale and use of illegal fireworks.

The four-person squad will work with federal agents during the summer and fall when most fireworks activity occurs, Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Mellott said Thursday.

Fireworks can cause serious injuries and can be a major fire and explosion threat, Mellott said.

"Every year, there's about 10,000 injuries nationwide," said Special Agent Chuck Purlick of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Pittsburgh.

"Many of those are kids. There's a lot of eye injuries, fingers, burns. We know it's a problem and every year it recurs. We've just got to keep it as minimal as possible.

Pittsburgh bans most firecrackers except for "snappers," caps for capguns and champagne streamer bottles. Among fireworks prohibited are smoke bombs, M-80s, cherry bombs, sparklers and pellets that expand into "snakes" when ignited.

"M-80s are like a cannister-type thing, but they will take your fingers off," Purlick said.

Many people who want to buy and sell fireworks that are illegal in Pennsylvania can get them in other states, including Ohio.

"They're right across the (Ohio) line," said Purlick. "There are several places right cross the line where you can buy this stuff legally. They go over there and pick it up and bring it back."

ATF agents have been arresting illegal sellers of firecrackers since 1970, Purlick said.

"We usually get a couple a year. We'll be ... doing business out

there in western Pennsylvania outside of Pittsburgh," the agent said.

"We get a lot of action in the northwestern part of the state, up toward Erie. There are some clandestine operations up there.

"The trouble is that the powders are extremely sensitive to a spark. If somebody throws a cigarette, you could cause a large detonation accident very easily."

2 07-05-86 03:05 ped

Boy killed in fireworks explosion

By United Press International

A teenager was killed and another man critically burned when Fourth of July fireworks exploded in a van loaded with young people in Huntsville, and at least eight people died in highway accidents in Alabama over the long holiday weekend, authorities said.

Seven people had packed the van for a trip across the Tennessee River into adjoining Morgan County to buy fireworks and were returning to Huntsville when a fiery explosion turned the vehicle into a missile zone, Huntsville police said.

Police said Gregory Wayne Myers, 14, was killed in the explosion about 9 p.m. Friday on a downtown street. Roderick Fugate, 26, also of Huntsville, was in critical condition Saturday in the burn unit of University Hospitals in Birmingham, and a third victim, 16-year-old Bill Griffin, was treated for minor injuries and released.

"The people in the van didn't even know what happened," said Officer Ronnie Fudge. "All they know is there was an explosion and a fire. If someone was smoking, the wind may have blown a spark back in the window, or a match may have been dropped. Who knows?"

Fudge said fire department investigators searched Saturday for clues to the explosion that left the van a charred shell.

"The arson investigators can determine to a degree what happened. They can take statements from everybody," Fudge said. "When they get over the initial shock, the people will remember some things."

At least seven more people were killed in highway accidents over the long weekend that began at 6 p.m. Thursday.

3 07-05-86 03:57 ped

Ala.

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) _ Three creditors of a fireworks company have filed a petition under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code claiming Lantis Fireworks Co. is \$470,000 in debt and owes them more than \$75,000.

The petition against the Salt Lake City-based firm was filed Thursday by Air Capital Wholesale Fireworks Inc., Wichita, Kan., Longhorn Manufacturing Co, Roswell, N.M., and Drayton Insurance Brokers Inc., Birmingham, Ala.

The petition claims Lantis Fireworks Co. owes the three creditors \$75,422.

But Lantis vice president Ken Lantis said the petition is an attempt by competitors to hurt his business.

"The competition is jealous," Lantis said. "We're doing the best we've ever done. I'm sorry they're not busy and we're packed."

Air Capital and Longhorn are former business associates, Lantis said, who later became competitors. Conflicts with the three creditors have already produced lawsuits, he said.

Lantis said his company owes money to the creditors, but he denied the \$75,000 figure.

"We're just going to have to do it in court," Lantis said. "But we're not going bankrupt."

The petition has no immediate effect, although Lantis must file an answer within 20 days. A judge will then decide whether Lantis should be brought into the Chapter 7 process, which usually requires liquidation to pay debts.

9 07-07-86 08:53 aed

(adding drownings, details on explosion)

By United Press International

Accidents claimed the lives of at least 13 people over the long Independence Day weekend in Alabama, including a teenager killed in a fireworks explosion in Huntsville and four people who drowned during holiday outings.

Officials at University Hospitals said Roderrick Fugate, 26, of Huntsville, remained in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care burn unit following the fireworks explosion inside a van Friday.

Gregory Wayne Myers, 14, was killed in the explosion about 9 p.m. Friday on a downtown Huntsville street. A third victim, 16-year-old Bill Griffin, was treated for minor injuries and released.

Seven people had packed the van for a trip across the Tennessee River into adjoining Morgan County to buy fireworks and were returning to Huntsville when a fiery explosion turned the vehicle into a missile zone, authorities said.

Sgt. Ray Tielking said the explosion was apparently set off when a bag of fireworks on Myer's leg caught fire from either a lighted firecracker or sparks from a firecracker.

"Once the bag caught fire it was thrown to the floor of the van," Tielking said. "At this point, we're not sure if there were other bags in the van."

"What we do know is that the van was a custom one and the interior went up like a match. The boy who died was apparently trying to get out a back door while the others went out a side door," the officer said.

12 07-08-86 07:35 aed

No charges expected in fireworks incident

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (UPI) _ Criminal charges probably will not be filed against the driver of a van that burned and caused the death of a passenger Friday when fireworks exploded inside the vehicle, Huntsville police said.

Killed was Gregory Wayne Myers, 14, of Huntsville.

Officials believe the van burned after a lighted firecracker dropped before it could be thrown from the vehicle. The lighted firecracker or sparks from it then fell into a bag of fireworks in Myers' lap, police believe.

The bag exploded and was thrown to the floor of the van, which caught fire.

Investigating officer Floyd Pirtle calls the incident "a freak accident."

Although it is a misdemeanor to set off fireworks within the city of Huntsville, probably no charges will be filed because those who set off fireworks would have to do so in the presence of police, Pirtle said.

"We're still investigating," said Pirtle. "It will probably be a couple of weeks before the report is complete."

Pirtle identified the driver as David McMurray, 16.

Two other people in the van were injured.

Rodrnick Fugate, 26, of Huntsville was in fair condition in a Birmingham hospital with burns over 40 percent of his body. Bill Griffin, 18, was treated and released, police said.

2 07-10-86 09:14 apd

KINGMAN, Ariz. (UPI) _ A fireworks rocket apparently was responsible for a 19-year-old man losing several fingers from his hand, Mohave County Sheriff's Lt. Mike McGirr said.

Authorities initially said a "pipebomb" injured James Richardson on Tuesday evening.

However, McGirr said Wednesday that Richardson had found "a 5-inch long piece of fireworks" while he was hitchhiking on Interstate 40, about 30 miles east of Kingman.

"He picked up the fireworks while he was smoking," McGirr said, adding that the rocket exploded in Richardson's hand.

McGirr described the explosive as a tube, about one and one-half inches in diameter with an orange cap on the end.

After the explosion, Richardson flagged down a motorist, who took him to Kingman. Richardson was listed in good condition after undergoing surgery at Kingman Regional Medical Center.

4 07-06-86 11:18 ppd

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (UPI) _ Violence along Southern California beaches during Fourth of July celebrations led to calls for the elimination of a traditional pier fireworks show and other actions to curb rowdiness.

Friday night's Santa Monica Pier fireworks display, criticized by police and fire officials in the past because of the huge crowds it draws, was marred this year by a fatal shooting, several assaults and 59 arrests.

In Newport Beach, police made about 100 arrests Friday night after an unruly mob pelted officers with rocks, beer bottles and even fireworks.

"My real concern is, how can we let people think it's safe when we know it isn't," Santa Monica Mayor Christine Reed said of the seaside show. An attempt by Reed to cancel this year's show was defeated by the City Council on a 4-3 vote.

"We're going to be forced to give up the municipal fireworks show because of the related problems," Reed said. "We only need to pick up

one vote (in the City Council)."

Councilman James P. Conn, a fireworks show supporter, said this year's display, which drew more than 500,000 people, was not as bad as one held last year.

But Sgt. Harry Kutzbach, a 17-year veteran of the Santa Monica Police Department, said the beach event was "the worst Fourth of July we ever had."

Police said most of the violence during the show, including the fatal shooting of a 16-year-old boy, was gang-related. The youth, whose identity was not immediately released, was killed after rival Latino gangs exchanged taunts, officers said.

Other incidents in Santa Monica included 10 assaults with deadly weapons, two shootings, one car theft, one armed robbery, burns to two people from illegal firecrackers and about 200 fights, police said. Two officers were reportedly injured on the beach.

Several businessmen on the pier said things got out of hand and closed up shop.

In Newport Beach, police said they were pelted with rocks, beer bottles and fireworks by throngs of drunken revelers who crowded onto the streets along the shoreline.

Two officers were injured in the melee which broke out late Friday night on the beach between 35th and 47th street as officers tried to disperse the crowd of thousands gathered to celebrate the Fourth, Sgt. Dave Elliot said.

One officer was injured by a quarter-stick of dynamite that was thrown at him. He was treated at a nearby hospital and released. Another officer suffered broken ribs when he was pushed by the drunken mob.

Later this week, Elliot said, police officials plan to discuss possible action to prevent further holiday outbreaks of violence.

4 07-08-86 06:11 ped

ga., s.c.

EDGEWATER, Fla. (UPI) _ A crowd of about 750 friends, relatives, firefighters and law enforcement officers gathered Tuesday in final tribute to Fire Chief George Kennedy, killed in an Independence Day fireworks explosion.

A procession followed the rose-topped casket, carried on the main engine of Edgewater's volunteer fire department, five blocks from the First Baptist Church to the Edgewater cemetery.

People from around southeast Volusia County attended the services in the community of 11,000 people. A 21-gun salute was fired, and the sheriff's office dispatcher put out a final page in Kennedy's memory.

"It was quite a tribute to George and his family," said a mourning Edgewater firefighter. "I think just about everybody around the area knew him."

Kennedy, 39, in the tradition of his father, had supervised the fireworks display for 10 years. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, and five children. Kennedy, who operated a landscaping business, had been a fire department and rescue team volunteer for 15 years.

He was killed when an ignited fireworks shell exploded before leaving the mortar tube from which it was to be launched. Several other firefighters suffered minor injuries in the blast.

The company that sold the fireworks to Edgewater has been linked to Fourth of July mishaps in two other Florida cities and one each in Atlanta and Mississippi.

Southern International Fireworks Inc., based in Rockhill, S.C., also provided pyrotechnics to Madeira Beach and Safety Harbor, both in the Tampa Bay area, fire officials said.

Madeira Beach Fire Chief Charles Beard suffered a fractured pelvis, broken arm and severe cuts and burns on his back and leg in one explosion, and Safety Harbor firefighter Jerry Moreland sustained severe muscle and nerve damage to an arm in another explosion, said Capt. Grant Smith in Madeira Beach.

Both accidents occurred July 4.

Six people were injured one day earlier when a rocket misfired during a fireworks show at Perimeter Mall in Atlanta. Most of the injuries were minor, but a 9-year-old girl was hospitalized at Scottish Rite Children's Hospital with second- and third-degree burns.

The misfire showered spectators with sparks and set off several grass fires in the vicinity. Jeff Griffith, general manager of Perimeter Mall, said the rocket detonated in its launch tube.

"The fireworks were manufactured overseas, but Southern International Fireworks put on the show at the mall," said a DeKalb County, Ga., police spokesman. "That same firm had three other incidents in Florida and one in Pascagoula, Miss."

Southern International's South Carolina office referred questions to a John Feigert at the company's Atlanta sales office. But the number given was experiencing "line problems," according to AT&T, and Feigert could not be reached to comment.

Similar calls to Southern International's Decatur, Ga., sales office went unanswered, and messages left on a recording machine were not answered.

5 07-09-86 12:53 aed

mich, n.c., s.c, ga., pa., ohio

Thirteen sentenced in interstate fireworks business

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (UPI) _ Thirteen people from seven states were sentenced for their involvement in an illegal fireworks business that came to light after a May 1983 explosion killed 11 people at an illegal Benton, Tenn., fireworks factory.

Three more people are scheduled to be sentenced July 23. The fatal May 27 explosion happened three days after a similar explosion killed two people at a clandestine fireworks plant in Rowesville, S.C.

Howard Bramblett, 54, of Ocoee, Tenn., was sentenced Monday to 10 years for participating in the illegal manufacture of explosives.

Bramblett also received 10-year terms for each of 15 counts relating to transporting explosives across state lines and for one count of dealing in illegal explosives. He will serve those terms concurrently with the 10-year stint given on the manufacturing charge.

Bramblett also is serving a 10-year term in connection with the South Carolina explosion. U.S. District Attorney R. Allen Edgar called Bramblett "the linchpin that made the whole operation start and work."

Others sentenced Monday were:

_ Robert Day, 43, of Aiken, S.C., who received a four-year term for

conspiracy.

_ Carroll Lee Parker, 28, of Hayesville, N.C., one year for conspiracy.

_ Thomas Walter Sable, 45, of Cleveland, Tenn., three years with all but six months suspended for conspiracy. Sable also was fined \$1,500.

_ Jack Robert Thompson, 42, Hayesville, N.C., one year for conspiracy.

_ Timothy Layne Scruggs, 26, of Dalton, Ga., a three-year suspended sentence, three years probation and \$1,000 fine for conspiracy.

_ John Hunter Biddle, 50, of Dalton, Ga., three years with all but six months suspended and 30 months probation for conspiracy.

_ Bruce Allen Long, 30, of Grand Rapids, Mich., three-year suspended sentence, three years probation and \$1,000 fine for conspiracy.

_ Walter Thomas Noeth, 25, Chicago, three years with all but six months suspended, five years probation and a \$2,000 fine for conspiracy and involvement in interstate transportation of illegal explosives.

_ Robert Wayne Goins, 36, of Caryville, Tenn., suspended three-year sentence, three years probation and a \$3,000 fine for conspiracy and dealing in explosives without a license.

_ Anthony Joseph Pantanella, 53, of Pittsburgh, three years with all but six months suspended, 30 months probation and a \$2,000 fine for causing illegal fireworks to be transported across state lines.

_ Patrick John Gleason, 32, Tioga, Pa., a suspended four-year sentence and \$2,000 fine for his involvement in transporting illegal explosives across state lines.

_ Theresa J. Allen, 46, of Toledo, Ohio, three years with all but six months suspended and three years probation for causing illegal explosives to be transported in interstate commerce.

6 07-09-86 01:12 aed

Ga. company made fireworks in three explosions

EDGEWATER, Fla. (UPI) _ A Georgia company sold fireworks to three cities where Fourth of July explosions killed a volunteer fire chief and severely injured two other firefighters in separate accidents, officials said.

Southern International Fireworks Inc. provided the fireworks to Edgewater, which is south of Daytona Beach, and to Madeira Beach and Safety Harbor, both in the Tampa Bay area, said fire officials in Volusia and Pinellas counties.

But the officials said it is not known where the fireworks were manufactured or even if shipments to the three cities were from the same factory.

There was no answer Tuesday to telephone calls placed to Southern International's sales office in Decatur, Ga.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday for Edgewater Fire Chief George Kennedy, 39, who was killed Friday as he supervised the \$5,500 display on tiny Firecracker Island.

Fire Chief Charles Beard suffered a fractured pelvis, broken arm and severe cuts and burns on his back and leg in an Independence Day

explosion at Madeira Beach, said Capt. Grant Smith.

And Safety Harbor firefighter Jerry Moreland sustained severe muscle and nerve damage to an arm in another explosion, Smith said.

Investigation continues into the Gulf Coast mishaps and the fatal explosion in Edgewater, with fireworks impounded along with spent metal mortar tubes from which shells are ejected after fireworks are ignited.

Kennedy, who for 10 years had headed the town's July pyrotechnics, was killed when one of the 6-inch shells exploded prematurely.

1 07-06-86 04:32 pcd

Suspect had experience with explosives

GODFREY, Ill. (UPI) _ Authorities said a man from Madison County who was arrested after police found hundreds of pounds of explosives in his house has had experience with explosives.

The man's home in Godfrey was destroyed nearly 10 years ago in an blast officials determined was caused by explosives stored in the house.

Randal L. Brown, 35, and his wife, Susan P. Brown, 33, of Godfrey were charged Thursday with possession of explosives or incendiary devices and unlawful possession of explosives.

Authorities made the arrests as part of their investigation into a bombing that blew the porch off a house in Wood River early Wednesday. A man, a woman and two children in the house at the time of the blast were uninjured.

David E. Wyatt, 22, of Godfrey, has been charged with aggravated arson in the incident.

Police arrested the Browns after obtaining a search warrant for their home.

More than 100 "explosive devices" were confiscated by police, said Randy G. Massey, assistant state's attorney. Reports put the amount of explosives at about 500 pounds.

Massey said it was a "possibility" that the material for the bomb came from the cache in the Browns' home.

Police in East Alton still were investigating the discovery Wednesday of about 300 explosive devices in the trunk of a parked car.

Massey said he could not comment about whether police believe the two caches of explosives were related.

The investigation into the bombing was conducted by the Wood River police, the Madison County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

An explosion in January 1977 left nothing but the foundation of a home where Randal Brown then lived, Lt. Tom Acker of the Godfrey Fire Protection District said Saturday.

The state fire marshal's office and the federal firearms agency determined the blast was caused by explosives stored in the house but no charges were filed, Acker said.

The Browns were released Friday from the county jail in Edwardsville after each posted a \$20,000 bond.

Wyatt remained in jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond. He also was charged Thursday with another count of aggravated arson in a fire police said had been set in June in East Alton.

The explosives confiscated from the two caches were blown up by

federal firearms agents at the East Alton police firing range.

The bombs found by police had been made up as fireworks, East Alton Fire Chief Bill Shewmaker said. He said they ranged in size from one to 10 inches and were in red and blue cardboard cylinders.

2 07-08-86 08:08 aed

By United Press International

Illegal fireworks injured 12 people, and Maryland authorities seized thousands of dollars worth of fireworks, during the July 4 weekend, the fire marshal's office said today.

None of the injured required hospitalization.

The fire marshal's office said authorities seized illegal fireworks in at least 128 incidents.

Of that number, 98 confiscations occurred at the Maryland border in Charles and Washington counties.

Authorities say 18 people were arrested when the illegal fireworks were confiscated, and charges are pending in at least 20 other cases.

The fire marshal's office said this year marked the first time checkpoints were used at the Maryland-Virginia line, and the program would be continued or expanded next year.

Officials said most of the 12 people injured by fireworks were under 18 years old. Most victims suffered burns or received eye injuries from projectiles.

The fire marshal's office said the number of reported injuries was the lowest in three years.

1 07-05-86 08:00 pcd

GROSSE ILE, Mich. (UPI) _ A woman suffered minor injuries while running from a fireworks explosion late Friday, police said.

John Faryniarz of the Grosse Ile Police Department said Saturday the woman fell while fleeing the Detroit River shoreline and sustained some bruises. She was treated at a local hospital and released.

It was the only injury tied to the accident, which occurred at about 10 p.m. Friday during a fireworks display sponsored by the Grosse Ile Yacht Club.

Faryniarz said the accident occurred after three to five of the planned displays already had been fired from the fireworks barge moored on the Detroit River south of Detroit.

Swirling winds caused sparks to fly around the barge and those on board apparently noticed a few had landed on a piece of canvas covering other displays, the officer said. They took cover behind a protective wall and the explosion, described as minor, occurred.

The barge suffered no damage.

1 07-08-86 02:36 pcd

LINCOLN, Neb. (UPI) _ A Beatrice girl suffered permanent damage to her right eye in a Fourth of July fireworks accident, an ophthalmologist said Tuesday.

Tracia Lattimer, 12, apparently was hit about 10:30 p.m. Friday by

the top of a firecracker designed to shoot into the air, said Dr. Frederick Mausolf.

Mausolf treated Lattimer about midnight Friday. He said he repaired some external damage to the girl's eye, but a concussion to the retina will damage her vision permanently.

Tracia was admitted to Lincoln General Hospital Friday and dismissed on Saturday. Mausolf said he was unsure where the accident occurred. Lincoln and Beatrice authorities said they had no reports on the incident.

12 07-11-86 09:39 aed

Cousins arrested in explosives manufacturing

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (UPI) _ Two Middlesex County cousins have been charged with operating an illegal fireworks and explosives factory and storing hundreds of pounds of dangerous materials at their homes, investigators said Friday.

County Prosecutor Alan Rockhoff said that the families of the two Middlesex Borough men had been "living on top of a potential volcano."

The prosecutor said there were "awesome" amounts of chemicals, detonating devices and other explosive materials found in the men's homes and two garages in the borough.

The suspects, arrested Thursday, are identified as cousins Edward Bartek and Robert Feno. They were charged with possession of destructive devices, maintaining a nuisance and recklessly creating a risk of widespread damage or injury.

Investigators said Bartek sold fireworks and special effects devices for magicians and rock bands by mail, telephone and out of his home. He operated under the business name of Theater Effects Inc.

The illegal explosives factory was discovered when police followed a trail back to Bartek after a Summit, N.J., man severely injured his hand while attempting to mix explosive chemicals he purchased at a flea market in Watchung.

Information from the flea market vendor led police to Bartek's home and the two garages. A search uncovered "a laboratory for the manufacture of explosives, incendiary devices, fireworks and other apparatus, along with a huge cache of explosive chemicals, materials, compounds and other combustible items," Rockhoff said.

The investigators then searched Feno's home and found "a substantial amount of similar chemicals, ignitors and detonators, glassware and tubing which appeared to be the type of apparatus necessary to make M80-style firecrackers."

11 07-06-86 07:36 ped

By BARBARA GOLDBERG

NEW YORK (UPI) _ Police poised to tangle with terrorists and assassins during Liberty Weekend sighed with relief Sunday and said their most unnerving disaster involved an elderly man who hurt his hand picking up a firecracker.

Firefighters, meanwhile, said their busiest day ever _ July 4 _ was marked by stacks of illegal fireworks that made neighborhoods "sound like D-Day," said John Mulligan, spokesman for the city fire

department.

He said the most chilling incident of the weekend occurred in the 115 Precinct in Queens, where John Pederson, 77, was in the back of his home at 23-52 79th St., just before 10 p.m. on the Fourth of July and apparently picked up a firecracker in the yard. It exploded and his right hand was severely injured. He was taken to Elmhurst Hospital in shock, and was in critical condition.

16 07-07-86 06:45 aed

updating

At least 13 die on state roads

By United Press International

Fires caused by fireworks did more than \$85,000 worth of damage to three Buffalo buildings and extensively damaged a garage in suburban Kenmore during the weekend, officials said. One fireworks-related death was reported in Mount Sinai.

Meanwhile, the Saturday night fireworks in a Buffalo suburb were a dud.

Some 10,000 people braved traffic jams to get to West Seneca's Centennial Park, but the show was canceled because the man who was to set off the skyrockets never arrived.

Town Supervisor Joan Lillis said the man got lost somewhere between West Seneca and the Newcastle, Pa., headquarters of Zambelli Internationale, the same firm that helped direct the \$1 million, 40,000-shell fireworks display Friday night at the Statue of Liberty.

"I think people were stunned," she said. "They took it very well. Some people as I passed them by gave me a kiss. Others heckled."

All was not lost, however. The show was rescheduled and held Sunday night.

8 07-08-86 06:30 ped

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) _ Ohio House Speaker Vernal G. Riffe Jr., D-New Boston, angered at the cancellation of some Fourth of July fireworks and parades, Tuesday directed an acceleration of a House study of the liability insurance problem for local governments.

Riffe told two committee chairmen to have their units complete a study of three dozen proposed bills "by the end of August or early September at the latest."

A Riffe aide said that if the situation is not improved, the Speaker is prepared to summon the House back to act on a solution in September. Lawmakers were not to have reconvened until after the November election.

Riffe called it "a disgrace" that several communities in his district had to cancel their traditional Independence Day fireworks shows because they could not obtain liability insurance coverage.

"I have had calls from members and citizens from all over the state complaining that their festivities had also been canceled," said Riffe. "You had better believe that I am going to find out why this problem exists, or my name is not Vern Riffe."

The Speaker met with Rep. Michael P. Stinziano, D-Columbus, chairman of the House Insurance Committee, and Rep. John D. Shivers Jr., D-Salem, chairman of a select committee studying the civil justice system.

He said he told them to "get to the bottom of the problem and have legislation ready by the end of August or early September at the latest."

"We will have affordable liability insurance for local government and business," said Riffe. "If it takes tort reform, then we will have tort reform; if it takes new laws governing the insurance industry or stronger regulations, then that is what we will do."

Thomas R. Winters, executive assistant to the Speaker, said chances are 90 percent that unless the problem is solved earlier, the House will reconvene in September to act on the recommendations of the Stinziano-Shivers committees.

5 07-10-86 08:55 apd

PORTLAND, Ore. (UPI) _ Firemen said Thursday a two-alarm blaze which broke out while the movie "Raw Deal" was playing was caused by juveniles playing with fireworks.

No one was injured in the fire which caused \$30,000 damage.

The other half of the double bill was "Short Circuit."

4 07-09-86 02:19 ped

Florida officials investigate S.C. fireworks distributor

ROCK HILL, S.C. (UPI) _ Florida authorities are investigating a South Carolina fireworks supplier following three Fourth of July explosions that killed one man and seriously injured two others, officials said.

Authorities in the Florida cities of Madeira Beach, Edgewater and Safety Harbor said fireworks supplied by Southern International Firework Inc. of Rock Hill exploded too soon.

Edgewater's fire chief, George Kennedy, 39, was killed Friday when a mortar exploded prematurely. Madeira Beach firefighter Charles Beard, 56, suffered a broken pelvis and severe burns in a similar explosion. And in Safety Harbor, one man suffered nerve and muscle damage in an explosion. Eight other firefighters were hurt in the three explosions, authorities said.

The South Carolina Board of Pyrotechnics Safety and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have licensed Southern International Fireworks to sell Class-B fireworks. The company imports the fireworks from foreign countries, stores and sells them, said company spokesman Don Blake.

Southern International put on fireworks shows twice this year in Charlotte, N.C., without incident. Though the company sold the fireworks involved in the Florida incidents, it did not actually put on those exhibitions.

John Feigert, vice president for Southern International, confirmed his company shipped the fireworks to the Florida communities. The company is "live-testing" the products to see if any of the stock

might have been defective. Southern International is cooperating in the probe.

Investigators in Florida have confiscated some of the fireworks used in the displays for testing and further examination.

1 07-04-87 10:45 ppd

TUCSON (UPI) _ Tucson's Fourth of July fireworks display resulted in the illumination of A-Mountain due to several small brush fires believed caused by fall out, authorities and witnesses said Saturday.

There were no reported injuries.

Fire Department crews stationed around the mountain quickly battled the flames, which witnesses said erupted during the the fireworks finale.

The cone-shaped mountain top on the western edge of downtown was illuminated in flames as thousands of spectators left the Tucson Community Center viewing area, witnesses said.

Fire officials had yet to determine the exact cause of the fires, which burned a "good portion .

Fire Department Capt. Keith Richter said a brisk breeze and dry vegetation on the mountain may have have been factors.

"With that amount of fireworks and explosives its always a potential danger, Richter said. The fireworks display lasted about 50 minutes and was sponsored by four businesses.

Until 1979, the annual show was presented at the University of Arizona football stadium, but safety considerations and a cannon explosion in 1976 that injured five spectators at a UA football game forced an end to use of the stadium.

2 07-05-87 11:35 apd

Texas

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (UPI) _ Eight people, including a toddler, were injured by a shell that went awry in an Independence Day fireworks display, authorities said.

The shell exploded sideways Saturday night, landed under a flatbed truck being used as a bandstand and scattered burning debris along the ground into a crowd gathered at the Flagstaff Mall for the Independence Day festivities, said Gary Craddock, Battallion Chief of the Flagstaff Fire Department.

The mishap injured eight people, including a two-year-old girl who was taken to a hospital burn unit in Phoenix with second-degree burns over 17 percent of her legs. The child was not immediately identified.

The other seven people were treated at Flagstaff Medical Center and released. The type of injuries they suffered was not immediately available.

One of the fireworks shells apparently malfunctioned, exploding in its tube on the ground and damaging a holding system filled with cinders that caused other tubes to explode horizontally, a fire investigator said.

The fireworks display was prepared by Atlas Enterprises, Inc., of Fort Worth, Texas, authorities said.

¶

4 07-05-87 09:27 ppd

LOS GATOS, Calif. (UPI) _ Fireworks set off illegally by two teenagers and landing on the roof of a home Saturday night caused a fire that destroyed 80 percent of the structure, the Los Gatos Fire Department said.

Damage to the home, owned by Alan Guadi, was estimated at \$180,000. There were no injuries, and the parents were out of town.

Investigators said the teenagers were detonating Roman candles, firecrackers and bottle rockets in the backyard.

5 07-06-87 06:33 apd

San Joaquin Valley News Briefs

By United Press International

FRESNO (UPI) _ All in all, it was a relatively quiet July Fourth holiday weekend for fire and law enforcement agencies in the Fresno area, officials said Monday.

Highway Patrol officers reported a number of traffic accidents in the area, but said none of resulted in fatalities. In fact, CHP officers said there were no fatalities reported on highways in Fresno, Kings or Tulare counties during the three-day weekend that began Friday and ended at midnight Sunday.

Firefighters responded to a number of fireworks related blazes, but none was considered serious.

The largest one in the Fresno area occurred when a bottle rocket set off a palm tree and the fire spread to the roof of an apartment building. Residents battled that blaze with garden hoses until firefighters arrived. Damage was limited to about \$1,000.

Mid-Valley fire officials said their calls were a little higher than normal for the weekend, but few of the incidents involved fireworks related blazes.

Law enforcement officials reported several incidents involving fireworks, but not as many as in previous years and none of them involved serious injury or heavy property loss.

Lt. Jerry Davis of the Fresno Police Department described it as a "slower-than-normal weekend" for his department.

8 07-09-87 10:46 ppd

REDDING, Calif. (UPI) _ A man killed in an apparent homemade fireworks explosion at Lake Siskiyou July 4 has been identified as a 19-year-old Woodburn, Ore., man.

Kiril Kojin died Monday at Mercy Medical Center in Redding from severe injuries to the central nervous system after being hit in the head with a metal projectile, said Siskiyou County sheriff's spokeswoman Susan Gravenkamp.

It appeared someone else set off the device, although no one has been identified, Gravenkamp said Thursday.

4 07-05-87 05:22 pcd

(1grafinsert xxx bottle rocket; pickup4thgraf: the firefighter _ charges filed)

CHICAGO (UPI) _ A firefighter was fatally burned Saturday while fighting a house fire authorities said was probably sparked by fireworks.

Three other firefighters were injured in the blaze and one of them was hospitalized in fair condition.

"The cause of the fire is apparently fireworks landing in the attic," said Detective Ernest Rokosik, an investigator for the Police Bomb and Arson unit. Rosek speculated the 11 p.m. fire was probably sparked by a bottle rocket.

A resident of the building that burned was charged Sunday with two misdemeanor violations. Domingo Laboy, 32, was charged with reckless conduct and unlawful use of fireworks, police said. Laboy was released on \$100 bond.

The firefighter killed in the blaze was identified as James E. Hill, 44. He was in the attic with several other firefighters when the fire suddenly flared up, said Deputy District 4 Fire Chief Terrence O'Brien.

Hill, who had been a firefighter for nine years, had been promoted to engineer two days before his death and authorities said as of Aug. 1 he no longer would have been sent into burning buildings.

Investigators were still trying to determine what caused the "flashover," O'Brien said.

Dennis Cassidy, 42, a neighbor, said he saw occupants of the home shooting off fireworks in the street shortly before the fire.

"It was a normal Fourth of July celebration," he said. "When I got down to the street and I looked up, I saw a hole in the window like a bottle rocket had broken the window.

"I happened to look up and I happened to see what looked like a reflection of some fireworks," he said. "I got closer to the window and I saw flames and smoke coming out of a window on the third floor of the building."

Police confiscated a small box of assorted fireworks from the front porch of the building, including some bottle rockets.

2 07-05-87 01:22 pcd

KENOSHA, Wis. (UPI) _ About 20 people received minor injuries Saturday when two barrels of fireworks exploded during an annual Fourth of July fireworks display, officials said.

Dennis Sadowski, chairman of the fireworks display for the city of Kenosha and Kenosha County, said two canvas-covered 55-gallon steel drums exploded after a spark from a falling aerial display apparently ignited a fireworks shell.

"It was so quick," Sadowski said. "What we believe happened is a spark came down and ignited one of them and they all touched off. It was a fairly large explosion but it was contained within a steel drum."

He said the spark apparently penetrated through the canvas and ignited 70 four-inch shells, each of which contained a rocket or other form of aerial display.

A total of 14 people were treated and released for minor eye injuries from two Kenosha hospitals. About six other people were treated at the scene of the explosion for eye injuries, Sadowski said.

"No one was injured by actually getting hit by the fireworks themselves," he said.

The accident occurred at 9:39 p.m. and halted the show at the halfway point for the crowd of 4,500. The city has no plans to reschedule the show, Sadowski said.

The crowd dispersed without incident after the explosion.

Sadowski said it was the first time in 35 years of fireworks displays in Kenosha that an accident had happened and he considered it a "freak occurrence."

3 07-05-87 09:35 pcd

(hx)

OSAGE, Iowa (UPI) _ Two Osage men helping with a fireworks display were injured during the weekend when more than half the display was ignited by airborne sparks and exploded, Mitchell County Sheriff's officials said.

Sheriff Curt Younker said Sunday Brian Jones, 26, and Russell Michaels, 21, who were assisting with the Jaycees-sponsored event, sustained injuries when more than 75 fireworks blew up in front of a packed grandstand at the county fairgrounds.

"It was almost a constant eruption _ it looked like it was much worse than it actually was," Younker said. "It was frightening; we're lucky they weren't seriously hurt."

A nursing supervisor at Mitchell County Memorial Hospital said Jones was in good condition Sunday and Michaels had been treated and released.

6 07-09-87 03:53 pcd

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ A Des Moines man said Thursday if the next session of the state Legislature considers legalizing fireworks in Iowa, he will show lawmakers pictures of his 5-year-old great-grandson, who is swathed in bandages from injuries he received when fireworks exploded in his face.

James Michaels said his great-grandson, Joshua, ignited flash powder poured from at least 10 leftover firecrackers and bottle rockets Tuesday. He was severely burned on his face, arms, chest and hands, and his eyebrows and eyelashes were singed off, Michaels said.

Joshua's mother, Monica Fattig, said although doctors told her Joshua would sustain no scars as a result of the injuries, he and the rest of the Fattig family will carry emotional scars from the incident.

Michaels said the event exemplifies exactly why Iowa legislators would be remiss in legalizing fireworks, an action that was discussed but defeated by a Senate committee in March.

Roy Marshall, assistant state fire marshal, said Joshua was one of at least 10 Iowans injured by fireworks this Fourth of July.

3 07-07-87 10:56 acd

AVONDALE, La. (UPI) _ Stray fireworks probably were responsible for a fire that destroyed a home and did more than \$100,000 worth of damage, a fire official said.

"We have to assume it's an accidental fire and it was caused by fireworks," said Avondale Volunteer Fire Department Chief Glenn Dastague.

Dastague said Monday firefighters found spent Roman candles and large firecrackers in the front and rear yards of the residence.

The fire early Sunday completely destroyed the home of Paul and Glenda Henry, investigators said.

The Henrys, who were on vacation at the time of the blaze, were called Sunday in Florida and informed of the fire.

"It's so uncalled for, so uncalled for," said Glenda Henry. "Had something blown up, it's understandable. But the hot water heater is intact in the back, and there are no gas leaks."

Glenda Henry said the damage would exceed \$100,000.

"We lost everything but a few good clothes we packed for the trip," she said. "And we lost many things we'd accumulated over the years, things that can't be replaced."

Eight cats _ three of them kittens _ were killed in the blaze, firefighters said. Two German Shepherds in the yard were able to escape without injury, they said.

4 07-08-87 08:56 ped

10 injured by fireworks in state

By REBECCA KOLBERG

By United Press International

Ten people were injured by fireworks in Maryland over the Fourth of July holiday _ two less than last year's holiday and the lowest number in the past several years, the State Fire Marshal's office reported.

Fire Marshal's spokesman Bob Thomas said Wednesday the largest number of fireworks-related injuries occurred in the Washington metropolitan area, with three people hurt in Prince George's County and one in Montgomery.

Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties reported one injury each and one person was hurt by fireworks in Anne Arundel County. In the northeastern section of the state, two injuries were reported, one in Cecil and one in Kent County.

No fireworks injuries were recorded in Southern Maryland or the Eastern Shore.

"We think the extensive public awareness campaign that we put forth, in addition to stepped up efforts at confiscation, resulted in fewer fireworks injuries," Thomas said.

Thomas said seven of the injuries involved illegal fireworks and three were caused by sparklers, which are legal in most parts of Maryland.

The spokesman said the most serious injury occurred in Cecil County, when an aerial display detonated directly in the face of a Wilmington, Del., man. Doctors said Wednesday they do not know if the man will regain use of his left eye.

Another serious accident occurred in Cumberland, when a man attempting to load a ceremonial cannon for display lost part of his finger when the device fired prematurely.

Over the holiday period, Thomas said 10 arrests were made and 18 citations similar to traffic tickets were issued against people accused of possessing or selling illegal fireworks in Maryland.

The maximum penalty for a first-time offender is \$250 for possession and \$1,000 for selling fireworks, the spokesman said.

Thomas said 500,000 pieces of illegal fireworks were seized in a 10-day period leading up and through the Independence Day weekend _ down considerably from the 2 million pieces seized in a similar period during 1986. Most of the 1987 seizures were made in Southern Maryland near the Maryland-Virginia border and U.S. Route 301.

"We still believe we were very successful in carrying out our duties," he said.

1 07-05-87 01:12 pcd

AUBURN, Neb. (UPI) _ A routine check of motor vehicles conducted by the Nebraska State Patrol and Auburn police resulted in about 10 grocery bags full of illegal fireworks being confiscated.

Lt. Dave Winkler of the State Patrol said Sunday, officers Saturday conducted routine vehicle checks, "but of course our officers plan these in areas where they think violations might be occurring."

He said officers set up a vehicle inspection site on Highway 36 about nine miles from the Nebraska and Missouri border south of Auburn. Missouri allows fireworks to be sold there that violate Nebraska laws.

"As part of that there were seven people cited for possession of fireworks," Winkler said.

He said from those seven people, 10 grocery bags full of pop-bottle rockets, aerial mortars, black cats and M-60s were collected. The cache probably contained thousands of the illegal bottle rockets, Winkler said.

Violators of the offense are usually ordered to pay a \$125 fine for possessing the illegal fireworks, Winkler said. Although, he added, the law does provide for greater fines.

5 07-05-87 05:16 ped

Train accident kills one

SPRINGDALE, Pa. (UPI) _ Conrail officials investigated a train accident Sunday that took the life of a woman as the train moved through an area crowded with spectators watching a fireworks display.

There were so many people watching the fireworks Friday night sponsored by Springdale borough in Westmoreland County that they crowded

onto railroad tracks, officials said Sunday.

Colleen Cowen, 20, of New Kensington, was hit and killed by the train.

"It wasn't Conrail's fault," said one police officer.

The train was traveling westbound from Apollo to Etna, and had one locomotive, eight freight cars and three crew members, said Conrail spokesman Bob Libkind. The freight railroad company was investigating the incident.

"Conrail investigates all accidents," Libkind said. "The train is a local train. It was returning from Apollo to Etna. It's not what we call a `through-freight.'"

Libkind would not say if the company felt any fault was involved.

"We never have any comment while anything's under investigation," he said.

Nor would he say if the three crew members involved would continue to work a normal schedule while the investigation continued.

"I don't have anything on that at all," he said.

Police said officers had gone four times to the tracks to chase away crowds.

"I told them to stay off there," said officer Jack Killian.

"It's always jammed with people. What you have is mass confusion. Cars, kids wandering everywhere, trailers, everything else."

"I saw Colleen in front of me," said a friend, Dawnell Cooney, who had jumped to safety several feet away from the tracks.

"I looked at the train and at her. I went to reach for her and she was gone," Cooney said.

Unsuccessful in attempting to clear the tracks, Killian then called Conrail to try to contact train officials to let them know about the crowd. However, at 10:25 p.m. Friday, when he called, no one answered at Conrail.

The train stopped within 100 feet of hitting Cowen.

1 07-09-87 03:51 acd

New Mexico News In Brief

SANTA FE, N.M. (UPI) _ Fires over the 4th of July have prompted a call for a statewide ban on fireworks in New Mexico, except in public displays.

Frank Deuble of the International Association of Fire Chiefs said that organizations and one representing fire fighters have expressed support for the ban.

Firefighters in Gallup alone answered 115 fireworks-related calls between June 27-July 4. Gallup Fire Chief Jacob Campos says the fires destroyed 113 acres of land and cost the city about \$40,000. That includes the use of 70,000 gallons of water, the cost of overtime, and repairs to damaged equipment.

4 07-07-87 02:57 ped

Portage fireworks raid largest in state history

RAVENNA, Ohio (UPI) _ Portage County prosecutors said Tuesday they will request a permanent injunction to close a fireworks company where \$1.5 million in explosives were confiscated in the largest raid in state history.

A hearing on the proposed injunction against Midwest Fireworks Inc. of Deerfield has been delayed until Friday.

Authorities said the raid last Thursday on Midwest was the largest in Ohio and possibly the country. Agents from the Portage County sheriff's office and the state fire marshal's office confiscated enough fireworks to fill three tractor-trailers and four 24-foot trucks.

Authorities originally estimated the confiscated fireworks to be worth \$500,000.

Nearly 40 state and local authorities raided the manufacturing facility and retail store on Route 224 after undercover agents made and observed illegal fireworks purchases.

Midwest owners also are accused of violating a 1985 court order restricting them to selling only fireworks they manufactured.

Authorities said imported fireworks were confiscated in the raid.

Assistant County Prosecutor Louis R. Myers said he will ask a Portage County Municipal judge to permanently close Midwest.

Former Midwest owner Lawrence D. Lomaz, of Tampa, Fla., appeared in Ravenna Municipal Court Monday after spending the weekend in jail.

Lomaz, who was charged with illegal fireworks sales and illegal renovation of a building housing fireworks, was unable to pay his \$500,000 cash bond.

At the hearing, his bond was reduced from \$500,000 to \$100,000 cash.

"It's the highest ever set in Portage County," Lomaz said. "These guys ain't playing with a full deck."

Lomaz had been ordered to relinquish ownership of the company in 1985 after being convicted of posing as an FBI agent. Convicted felons are barred from selling fireworks.

"(Lomaz) just flagrantly abuses the law," Myers said. "We need a permanent injunction to close him up."

3 07-06-87 07:14 aed

Rhode Island News Briefs

HELPLESS FOR 21 HOURS

CRANSTON, R.I. (UPI) _ A Warwick man was in good condition today after he lay helpless on railroad tracks for nearly a day following a fall from an overpass while he watched a July 4 fireworks display.

The man, whose name was being withheld pending notification of relatives, fell off the Park Avenue overpass in Cranston Saturday night while watching the display at Roger Williams Park, police said.

He lay on the tracks for nearly 21 hours before a passing

truckdriver found him Sunday night, police said.

The man, who is in his 30s, suffered a broken leg and back injuries and was in good condition at Rhode Island Hospital.

1 07-06-87 01:57 ped

Fourth sets record low for Tennessee highway fatalities

By United Press International

Three people were killed on Tennessee roads this Independence Day weekend _ including a teenager who was throwing fireworks from the back of a pickup truck when he was thrown out, the Highway Patrol reported Monday.

On Thursday about 10:30 p.m., Allen W. Taylor, Petersburg, lost his life when he was thrown from a pickup truck on Highway 431 north of Fayetteville. Troopers said he was throwing fireworks from the truck when he fell and landed on his head.

1 07-05-87 02:40 ppd

By United Press International

Across Washington, rain helped keep fireworks related injuries to a minimum over the holiday weekend.

In Tacoma, however, one youth was treated at Mary Bridge Hospital when a powerful M-80 firecracker he was holding blew up in his hand Saturday.

The 15-year-old North End boy lost his thumb and index finger and part of two others when the firecracker exploded in his hand before he could throw it, a Tacoma fire department spokesman said.

A similar incident occurred Friday in Eatonville, where a 32-year-old Seattle man who was not named by authorities lost three fingers on his left hand after an M-80 exploded while he was holding it.

In Gig Harbor, fire officials said a housefire Friday night was caused by a child playing with fireworks inside a bedroom, causing \$60,000 in damage.

The 10-year-old boy is believed to have been handling a box of legal fireworks when one of the items ignited, sparking a chain reaction to the rest of the collection, said Capt. Don Lee of the Gig Harbor Fire Department.

In Spokane, 34 fires were reported in a 24-hour span ending Saturday evening, and 28 were attributed to fireworks. Most of the calls were for grass fires but several minor house and garage fires were reported.

The Valley Department and Fire District 9 covering Spokane's north side reported fewer fires but also blamed fireworks for most of those that occurred.

Fireworks stands all about Spokane were busy with a steady stream of customers, with vendors expecting to make a profit. They had been slowed earlier in the week, delayed a day by Spokane City Council controversy.

In the Seattle area, not one serious injury related to fireworks was reported, and citizens who braved chilly weather were treated to one of the biggest fireworks displays ever, a 23-minut barrage put on by

Ivar's restaurants that had people lined up from West Seattle to Magnolia.

In Clarkston, however, the displays went up in smoke before getting off the ground.

Handlers preparing for the evening accidentally set off their supplies when sparks from a test shot used to calculate wind speed scattered into boxes and blew up the entire evening's fireworks, lofting a huge plume of smoke into the air well before sunset.

No injuries were reported but three cars were damaged. The show had to be canceled.

While rain helped reduce the risk of firecracker-related fires around most of the state, it did not come in time to protect a Kennewick supermarket from being destroyed by fire.

The Price-Chopper market burned to the ground early Saturday in what fire officials said could have been fireworks related.

Witnesses reported seeing children playing with fireworks near the store before the fire. One spokesman said the fireworks may have ignited a gas line running into the store.

4 07-05-87 10:19 pcd

(prev. kenosha dateline; adding Dodgeville mishap)

By United Press International

About 20 people received minor injuries when two barrels of fireworks exploded during an annual Fourth of July fireworks display, officials said.

Dennis Sadowski, chairman of the fireworks display for the city of Kenosha and Kenosha County, said two canvas covered 55-gallon steel drums exploded Saturday night after a spark from a falling aerial display apparently ignited a fireworks shell.

"It was so quick," Sadowski said. "What we believe happened is a spark came down and ignited one of them and they all touched off. It was a fairly large explosion but it was contained within a steel drum."

And in Dodgeville the Fourth of July fireworks display was cut short when a piece of flaming debris from one of the first shells in a fireworks program ignited all the other shells. No one was hurt but the crowd of about 2,000 people at Dodgeville High School was evacuated from the scene.

Officials said they will adopt procedures to prevent future problems with the fireworks display. They said the debris landed in a box of stored shells which ignited and that explosion in turn ignited the rest of the shells.

In Kenosha Sadowski said the spark apparently penetrated through the canvas and ignited 70 four-inch shells, each of which contained a rocket or other form of aerial display.

A total of 14 people were treated and released for minor eye injuries from two Kenosha hospitals, officials at the hospitals said. About six other people were treated at the scene of the explosion for eye injuries, Sadowski said.

"No one was injured by actually getting hit by the fireworks themselves," Sadowski said.

The accident happened at 9:39 p.m. and halted the show at the halfway point for the crowd of 4,500. The city has no plans to reschedule the show, Sadowski said.

The crowd dispersed without incident after the explosion.

Sadowski said it was the first time in 35 years of fireworks displays in Kenosha that an accident had happened and he considered it a "freak occurrence."

6 07-06-87 11:55 acd

Janesville fireworks mishap ends with injuries

By KATHLEEN R. OSTRANDER

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ The son of the owner of a Janesville fireworks company putting on a July 4 display was in fair condition after some of the fireworks saved for the grand finale detonated prematurely.

Larry Cornellier Jr., 23, lost part of his thumb and received cuts on his hands and arms as a result of the mishap, a police spokesman said Monday. A second company employee, John Reigle, 23, Beloit, was treated and released at Mercy Hospital.

Cornellier, of Cornellier Fireworks Co. of Beloit, was manually detonating fireworks for the display. His father, Larry Cornellier Sr., said in a recent interview that he felt electronic detonation was a much safer method of working with fireworks.

Police said the cause of the explosion was either human error or faulty fireworks.

"There was no delay after the explosion because Cornellier kept setting off the fireworks until the ambulance arrived and then his brother moved right in and took over," said Police Lt. Don Guse.

Guse discounted some reports that police felt the fireworks had been sabotaged, and that a reward was offered for information about the incident.

"We've been getting calls to that effect, and I'm saying right now it is not true. That's a lot of misinformation," Guse said.

The fireworks display had been halted earlier when spectators around the detonation area set off bottle rockets into the stored fireworks. All spectators were removed from the detonation area.

Guse said the bottle rockets were not the cause of the explosion.

This is not the first time Cornellier has been injured in a fireworks mishap. In 1983, he and three others were injured and a Beloit man killed in an explosion of an illegal fireworks factory in Milton. Cornellier Sr., the owner of the factory, has been charged with homicide by reckless conduct and is awaiting trial.

Cornellier Fireworks has put on the Jaycee-sponsored fireworks display in Janesville the past two years. Last year, the organization thought the fireworks tradition had come to an end because no insurance agency would insure the event.

Cornellier Fireworks assumed liability for the performances by attaching a clause to its insurance policy in 1986 and again this year.

13 07-10-87 12:23 acd

KENOSHA, Wis. (UPI) _ Lawsuits may be filed against the city and county of Kenosha and an American Legion post after a July 4th fireworks explosion injured nearly 30 people, officials said.

Police are interviewing people who were injured at the explosion on Simmons Island.

"I would not be surprised if we have a claim," said Kenneth Horner, in charge of insurance for the city and county.

Horner said the city and county, who pay for the annual display, and American Legion Post 21, in charge of the fireworks, are covered by a \$1 million insurance policy issued by Allied Specialty Insurance Inc. of St. Petersburg, Fla.

The policy, which also covers manufacturer Illinois Fireworks Co. of Danville, Ill., is required by the Kenosha Fire Department before it can issue a fireworks permit.

The display was halted shortly before 10 p.m. July 4 when sparks ignited two canvas-covered barrels containing rockets and other displays. The ensuing explosion hurled debris which hit many bystanders in their eyes.

The fireworks have been returned to the manufacturer, who will pick up the unused stock and reimburse the city and county.

About half of the \$10,000 display was not used, about 20 to 30 minutes worth, because the makeup display planned for Sunday was rained out.

1 03-09-88 09:43 pps_¶

A noisy afternoon show of illegal fireworks

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) _ Federal agents staged an unusual fireworks show when they exploded confiscated illegal fireworks from abroad at a safe spot in the Presidio Army Base.

The noisy contraband was seized during a two-week period in late February by government agents. A total of \$750,000 worth of dangerous pyrotechnics headed for the U.S. market were intercepted during the operation and some samples were blown up Wednesday.

Some of the firecrackers had a fuse so short that they seemed to blow up instantly, while others were equipped with fuses that burned for 13 seconds, but then exploded 150 feet into the sky. An agent noted that a fuse which burns as long as 13 seconds is dangerous and illegal, since bystanders may become curious and return to inspect the device, which then may finally ignite and injure those nearby.

Terrence Scanlon, chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, told a news conference that the unsafe fireworks were taken from shipping containers at San Francisco Bay Area ports carrying 3.2 million units of illegal fireworks. Most came from China, he said.

He said that of 92 different devices in the seized shipments that were examined, 46 were sent to a laboratory and 30 failed U.S. safety standards.

The importers of the unsafe fireworks face possible fines equal to the value of the seized explosives, he said.

The United States imported 65 million pounds of fireworks valued at

\$109 million in 1986, and 80 percent of those tested failed to meet U.S. safety standards, Scanlon said.

He noted that there were 9,000 fireworks injuries in the United States last year and added that the Bay Area imported fireworks inspection, which involved six different enforcement agencies and was nicknamed "Operation Heatstroke," would be extended to other U.S. ports in the future.

1 03-10-88 05:03 pcs

Indiana News Briefs

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) _ Indiana Fire Marshal's officers detonated about six tons of illegal fireworks Thursday morning at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Officials had confiscated the \$100,000 dollars worth of fireworks last summer. Officials needed about 45 minutes to fire off the sky rockets and other illegal fireworks.

The fireworks did not produce much of a show, however, because they were set off in bright sunshine.

4 03-11-88 02:49 aes

Fireworks dealer charges misconduct in prosecution

RAVENNA, Ohio (UPI) _ A Portage County fireworks dealer has asked a judge to dismiss a variety of charges against him, citing alleged misconduct and conflict of interest in the prosecutor's office.

Larry Lomaz, 37, faces charges of unlawful possession of fireworks, complicity to sell fireworks to a minor, complicity in failing to maintain sales records and unlawful renovation of a building.

On July 2, law enforcement agents from the state and county raided Lomaz's Deerfield Township business, Buckeye Fireworks, which has been closed since then. The agents seized \$500,000 worth of fireworks and arrested Lomaz and three other people.

Lomaz alleges conflict of interest in the case because Myers privately represents one of Lomaz's creditors.

Portage County Common Pleas Judge George Martin is considering Lomaz's dismissal request.

Lomaz's allegations against the prosecutor's office also stem in part from a 3-year-old incident.

Lomaz's business was called Buckeye Fireworks & Novelty Co. until 1985, when he failed to pay the state's annual corporate franchise fee. Myers secretly incorporated a business by the same name that year by having his secretary file incorporation papers in her own name and paying her for the \$75 corporation fee, Lomaz says.

The secretary, Sharon Fenstermacher, said in a court deposition that she filed the incorporation papers for Myers and that she never planned to participate in the fireworks operation.

In his motion for dismissal of the charges, Lomaz states that Myers "never disclosed to any court that he had a financial interest in the outcome of this litigation in that he had secretly reserved the Buckey name through Ms. Fenstermacher."

Court documents indicate that Fenstermacher began the incorporation

process two months before Myers asked for a court order to force Lomaz to surrender the corporate charter for Lomaz's company.

8 04-10-87 09:06 pcd

(mo.)

Senate panel revives fireworks bill

By JULIE RUTZ

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ Saying the measure deserves a full hearing, a Senate panel has reversed an earlier vote and approved a controversial bill to legalize the sale of fireworks in Iowa.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, which rejected the bill 6-8 Thursday, voted 8-5 Friday to send the House-passed bill to the Senate floor.

The bill would allow the sale of small firecrackers, such as Black Cats, but not larger cherry bombs, to anyone over the age of 16. It also requires anyone planning a public fireworks display to obtain a permit.

However, the committee amended the House measure to shorten by 30 days the period in which Iowans could buy fireworks. Under the House bill, fireworks sales would be allowed between Memorial Day and July 20. The Senate version would allow fireworks to be sold June 20 and July 10, and allows the State Fire Marshall to prosecute Iowans who possess fireworks outside the legal dates.

Sen. Ray Taylor, R-Steamboat Rock, one of two lawmakers to voted against the bill Thursday but supported it Friday, said he changed his vote after being lobbied by several members of the House. But Taylor said he is unsure whether he will vote for the measure on the Senate floor.

Sen. Eugene Fraise, Fort Madison, was the other lawmaker who changed his vote.

The committee approved the bill Friday despite arguments from Sens. Lee Holt, R-Spencer, and Linn Fuhrmann, R-Aurelia, that the state should retain its prohibition against the sale or use of fireworks because the explosives hurt people and destroy property.

Supporters argue the measure would boost Iowa's economy by preventing Iowans from driving to Missouri to purchase fireworks.

The committee action Friday came only hours before a legislative deadline for bills to clear committees.

4 04-10-87 08:48 ped

Ex-hero pleads guilty to aiding clinic bomber

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (UPI) _ A former Green Beret hero who received a 100 percent disability pension for Vietnam veterans syndrome has pleaded guilty to giving dynamite to an ex-Marine accused of bombing abortion clinics in New York, authorities said.

Donald Pryor Jr., 43, faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines for violating federal explosives laws, U.S. Attorney James West said Friday.

Pryor's guilty plea in U.S. District Court in Wilkes-Barre came two days after the arrest of the man charged with selling him some 35 sticks

of dynamite obtained from a construction site.

West declined to comment on whether Pryor helped investigators catch Carl Cenera, who allegedly altered the serial numbers on the dynamite to make it difficult to trace their source. Cenera was arrested Wednesday.

Pryor gave the dynamite to Dennis Malvasi, 37, who was indicted last month on charges he bombed two abortion clinics in New York City and attempted to blow up a third in 1985 and 1986.

The federal prosecutor declined to say if Pryor was cooperating in the case against Malvasi. He also refused to comment on Pryor's motive or how he met Malvasi.

Pryor was a Green Beret hero who served in Vietnam for many years and now receives a 100 percent disability pension from the Veterans Administration because he suffers from Vietnam veterans syndrome, West said.

Malvasi, an ex-Marine explosives expert who served in Vietnam and worked last summer on the Liberty Weekend fireworks display, has been described as a "devout Catholic" and religious zealot who is a fierce opponent of abortion.

Malvasi, convicted of assault in Queens in 1972, recently was accused in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. of trafficking weapons from Florida to New York.

He was charged March 5 in an 11 count indictment in New York with illegally transporting explosives across state lines and bombing the Manhattan Women's Medical Center and the Eastern Women's Center, and attempting to bomb the Margaret Sanger Pavilion of Planned Parenthood during 1985 and 1986.

Two people received minor injuries in the Eastern Women's Center bombing.

2 04-10-87 10:59 pcd

BELOIT, Wis. (UPI) _ The Wisconsin Court Administrator's office has assigned Rock County Circuit Court Judge J. Richard Long to preside over the trial of a man charged with homicide by reckless conduct, a court spokesman said Friday.

The attorney for Larry Cornellier Sr., 45, filed a substitution of judge motion against Rock County Circuit Court Judge John Lussow.

Cornellier, president of Pyro Science Development Corp. is charged in connection in the 1983 explosion of a fireworks factory near Milton. Dennis Whitt, 26, of Beloit, died in the explosion and four others, including two of Cornellier's children, were injured.

Cornellier had moved 500 pounds of pyrotechnics material to the Milton site after he was charged with municipal violations for storing that large amount of explosive material in Beloit, the criminal complaint, filed in March, said.

The Milton site blew up soon after the materials were moved.

Cornellier remains free on his own recognizance. No court date for the motion to dismiss the charge, has been set.

Court mulls 'deep pockets' validity

By PAMELA A. MacLEAN

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) _ California Supreme Court justices appeared divided Thursday during questioning of the validity of the 1986 voter-approved initiative Proposition 51, dubbed the "deep pockets" measure.

The ultimate decision by the court could affect the final damage settlements for thousands of victims of asbestos-related health injuries and the amount cities can be held liable for all forms of injuries on public property.

The critical issue under review by the court was whether Proposition 51 was intended to apply retroactively to cases already in the courts at the time the measure was approved by voters.

Big business, big government and insurance firms argue that the law was meant to be retroactive, even though the measure contained no such language.

The "deep pockets" initiative limited the amount that wealthy groups, such as municipal government, business or insurers, could be held liable in injury cases for such things as pain and suffering or emotional distress.

Under the old legal doctrine, one party found liable for an injury could be required to pay 100 percent of the damages if others could not.

This hit hardest at those with the most resources - the deepest pockets - big business, big government and insurers.

Proposition 51, entitled the Fair Responsibility Act of 1986, would allow each defendant to be held liable only for the share of damages for which they were directly responsible. A city found 10 percent at fault would only pay 10 percent of the damages, for example.

Voters approved the measure by a 62-38 percentage rate in November.

Some 39 cities filed arguments in support of putting the Proposition 51 changes in place immediately so they would apply to cases currently in the courts.

The court must rule in the 1980 case of then-18-year-old Gregory Evangelatos who was blinded in his Los Angeles home while trying to make fireworks.

In 1981 he sued the wholesaler and retailer of the chemicals he used. He also sued four chemical makers but they were all later dismissed from the suit.

Daniel Cathcart, attorney for Evangelatos, argued that the "deep pockets" law places those who suffer only economic losses in a more privileged spot than those who have lost the ability to enjoy the quality of life through physical injury.

"It puts more value on things than on people," he argued.

Children born deformed by the effects of drug such as Thalidomide or Bendectine given to their mothers may not be adequately compensated for the injury, he said.

"It is no more fair than throwing a dart at a dart board to decide what you get," he said.

Roy Weatherup, attorney for businesses sued, argued that voters know they pay for court expansion of right to recover for injuries. "That is why they passed Proposition 51," he said.

Justice John Arguelles said voters were promised lower insurance rates as a result of the passage of Proposition 51 but he noted the insurers seem to want legal protection retroactive but rate adjustment _is only to be in the future.

1 08 Dec 87 15:09 Tuesday
S African-Plane, Was S. African Plane On Fire?

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) _ South African Airways has found evidence of a fire that forced a jumbo jet to crash into the Indian Ocean last month, an airline official said Tuesday.

The fire was in the upper deck of the freight compartment at the back of the plane, said SAA chief executive Gert van der Veer. But he said the fire could have originated somewhere else.

The Boeing 747-200B "combi," which is designed to carry passengers and freight, crashed with 159 people aboard near the island of Mauritius en route from Taiwan to Johannesburg, South Africa, after the captain reported smoke in the cockpit.

All passengers were presumed dead.

"We don't know what caused the fire," said van der Veer. He refused to disclose the contents of the cargo.

SAA officials in Taiwan have denied a report that the airplane was carrying a load of fireworks. They said earlier that the plane's cargo included mail, romputers and auto parts.

Van der Veer said that during the last 20 minutes of the flight, Capt. Dawie Uys reported the fire to the Mauritius control tower and the airport there was put on an emergency basis.

Fifteen minutes later, the control tower lost contact with the plane, he said.

South African judge Cecil Margo will head a board of inquiry with representatives from other countries to investigate the cause of the accident, he said.

Victims of the plane crash were from 12 countries, including 70 South Africans, 47 Japanese and 30 Taiwanese.

Fifteen bodies have been recovered, and a naval and air search is continuing for the plane's flight recorder.

1 20 Dec 87 11:48 Sunday
China-Fireworks, Fireworks Explosion Kills 18

BEIJING (AP) _ An explosion at a small fireworks factory in southeastern China killed 18 people and injured seven, the official People's Daily said Sunday.

The account blamed the disaster on efforts to speed up production that ignored safety regulations. It said local police were investigating.

Fire broke out Friday in the plant in Jiangxi province's Huaizhong township when a worker used a kitchen knife to cut the lead wire on a string of firecrackers, the report said. It said the blaze touched off an explosion in gunpowder stores and flames spread throughout the building.

The factory was operated by the township and began production in October with 35 employees, the report said. It said the factory decided the

day before the accident to make each worker cut the wires on firecrackers which the worker produced, rather than having a specially trained worker cut all the wires.

The factory did not have a safety license, the report added.

In recent years, China has encouraged rural townships to start small factories to provide jobs for peasants no longer needed on the farm. Enforcement of safety regulations and product quality controls are often lax.

The government has started a campaign to improve product quality although China's first exhibition of shoddy goods was recently canceled because of pressure from manufacturers.

2 05-12-88 03:54 pcd

Lawmaker introduces bill to limit fireworks sales

By SARAH M. KELLOGG

LANSING, Mich. (UPI) _ A state lawmaker said Thursday that Michigan's laws governing the sale, use and storage of fireworks are out-dated and need to be reformed to address possible public safety problems.

Rep. Sharon Gire, the bill's sponsor, said consumers are currently allowed to purchase fireworks _ that are illegal to use in this state _ if they sign a waiver stating their intention to use them in another state.

Gire said that many Michigan residents are bypassing that provision by signing the waiver and using the illegal fireworks inside the state.

"What we're trying to do is get at the problem of people purchasing the fireworks in the state and using them here," said Gire, D-Mt. Clemens.

Under Gire's bill, a purchaser would sign the waiver, agreeing to use the fireworks in another state, and then the merchant would send the fireworks through the mail to an address outside of Michigan.

Gire said her bill also tries to address the problem of fireworks storage by requiring retailers and wholesalers to store the merchandise in a one-story concrete block building with a sprinkler system and a fence of not less than 10 feet in height surrounding the building.

The storage facility would also have to be located between 50 to over 7,000 feet away from passenger railways, public highways and inhabited buildings.

"There is a fear that at some point there could be a fire or an explosion that could end up injuring or killing someone," Gire said. "This is a statewide problem."

Local governments would retain their ability to grant a permit for the possession and use of fireworks prohibited by state law, but before issuing the permit the organization or person would have to furnish proof of insurance.

A permit could not be issued to anyone under the age of 21.

State law currently prohibits the sale of firecrackers, skyrocketers, roman candles, daygo bombs, bottle rockets, whistling chasers and rockets on sticks.

Michigan residents are allowed to purchase and use paper caps, toy pistols and guns, sparklers, flitter sparklers and toy snakes that do not contain mercury.

1 12 May 88 05:20 Thursday
Motley-Crue, Heavy Metal Trial Continues

ATHENS, Ala. (AP) _ A teen-ager testified Wednesday in a \$2.6 million lawsuit against the heavy metal rock group Motley Crue that flying pieces of dry ice from a flaming special-effects pot on stage split his lip during a 1985 show.

"I could feel straight through to my teeth," said 19-year-old David Wright. On Tuesday, the second plaintiff in the case, 17-year-old Robert Miller, said he lost an eye to flying debris during the concert in Huntsville.

Named as defendants in the suit are the band, the city of Huntsville, the Von Braun Civic Center and Nashville, Tenn., promoter of the concert.

Attorneys for Wright and Miller contend illegal fireworks were used as special effects, and that city and civic center officials were negligent in allowing their use.

About 30 teen-agers cut class to catch a glimpse Wednesday of the band's bass player, Nikki Sixx. Sixx needed a police escort to reach his car after testifying Tuesday. Some 300 fans stood outside as he departed that day.

Wright testified that he was standing about 20 feet from the stage when the accident took place. He said Motley Crue had just begun the song "Shout to the

Devil" when he saw flames shoot up on either side of the drummer.

Then, he said, "something come out and hit me," splitting his lip before he could cover his face.

He said when he looked down, he saw blood and what looked like crushed ice.

When he stepped on it, he said, his foot slipped as if the object were melting.

Miller testified Tuesday that he heard a "big boom" and saw flames just before something object struck him in the face during the concert.

Miller, 14 at the time and attending his first rock concert, said his first thought was that the lights at the arena had been turned off. "But when I reached up and felt my eye," he said, "there was nothing there."

Sixx testified Tuesday it was "impossible" that the teen-agers were injured by the band's special effects.

Sixx said the band continued to use the pyrotechnic displays in concerts after the incident in Huntsville. "I do three to four hundred shows with the stuff right next to me. It has to be safe," he said.

2 12-12-86 01:48 aes

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (UPI) _ The Mahoning County prosecutor's office has appealed the suspension of the sentence given to one of several people convicted in the 1985 explosion that killed nine people at an illegal fireworks factory.

John Antonoff pleaded guilty to one of nine involuntary manslaughter charges in March and was sentenced to five to 25 years in prison. Last month, however, Mahoning County Common Pleas Judge Elwyn Jenkins suspended the remainder of the sentence.

Antonoff began serving a federal prison sentence on similar charges, but had become ill and had spent most of the time in prison

hospitals.

After a number of medical tests, a physician determined Antonoff had serious medical problems that would jeopardize his life if forced to serve the remainder of his sentence.

Jenkins subsequently granted Antonoff probation, but Mahoning County Prosecutor Gary Van Brocklin filed an appeal of Jenkins' ruling Wednesday with the 7th District Court of Appeals. Ohio law says felons must serve at least six months of a prison term before the remainder of their sentences can be suspended.

1 06-09-87 09:26 aed

Northeast Ohio News Briefs
By United Press International

LORAIN, Ohio (UPI) _ A Lorain man rescued from a burning house with explosives nows faces charges of threatening two men and discharging fireworks.

Joseph Attila Torocsik, 38, pleaded innocent Monday in Lorain Municipal Court and is free on \$2,500 dollars bond.

Lorain police said they rescued Torocsik and Paula Nabakowski of Oberlin from a Lorain home early Monday, after a fire erupted in the kitchen. Police received reports of an argument at the house prior to the fire.

2 06-09-87 10:52 pcd

BELOIT, Wis. (UPI) _ A Rock County Circuit judge has denied a motion by the attorney for the owner of a fireworks company to hold a hearing on information the attorney claims prosecutors deliberately omitted from the criminal complaint.

Larry Cornellier Sr., 45, president of Pyro Science Development Corp. of Beloit, is charged with reckless homicide in the 1983 explosion of an illegal fireworks facility near Milton. A Beloit man was killed in the blast and four others were injured.

Cornellier's attorney, John Olson, asked for the hearing because he said Assistant Rock County District Attorney Nicholas Schweitzer deliberately omitted from the criminal complaint information he received from other company officers.

Olson said the information would exonerate Cornellier.

Rock County Circuit Judge J. Richard Long denied the motion Tuesday and said it was unnecessary to hold the hearing.

Olson said his client would not waive the 20-day legal time limit for holding a preliminary hearing, but court clerks were not immediately able to find an available time for the preliminary hearing. Schweitzer has said the preliminary hearing may take several days.

Authorities said Cornellier knew of the risks when he moved his fireworks operation from Beloit to the Milton site and thus is guilty of reckless conduct.

4 06-10-87 11:28 pcd

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) _ A dozen mail-order fireworks companies have been notified to comply with state law or face prosecution for offering fireworks that are banned in Wisconsin.

Letters from Attorney General Don Hanaway and Howard J. Richards, secretary of the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ask the companies to sign statements within two weeks that they are complying with the law.

Hanaway and Richards said the companies could be prosecuted if they fail to sign.

A number of fireworks firms have sent catalogs and mailed merchandise to Wisconsin residents.

The sale, possession or use of fireworks is prohibited in Wisconsin except by a person holding a valid permit issued by a mayor, village president or town chairman of the community where the fireworks are used or stored.

Officials said fireworks could be defined as large firecrackers, aerial bombs and other devices with a charge of more than 16.2 milligrams of powder.

The attorney general's office said devices that can be used in Wisconsin include:

- _ Play snakes.
- _ Toy caps with not more than one-quarter grain of explosive mixture.
- _ Sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length and one-quarter inch in diameter.
- _ Party poppers with less than one-quarter grain explosive mixture.
- _ Whistles that don't explode, spark or emit external flame.
- _ Smoke devices with no external flame and remain on the ground.
- _ Some cylindrical and cone fountains that sit on the ground and emit only smoke or sparks.

2 02-11-87 01:20 pps

nev.

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) _ A Mormon Church religious missionary setting off firecrackers near Lisbon, Portugal, has been shot to death by a security guard, church officials said Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Roger Todd Hunt, 19, Las Vegas, Nev., said church spokesman Don LeFevre.

Hunt and three other Mormon missionaries were reportedly igniting the fireworks Tuesday night when a neighborhood security guard "chased them and apparently shot and killed elder Hunt," LeFevre said.

The fatal shooting was under investigation, he said.

1 02-13-87 01:25 pcs

PORTAGE, Wis. (UPI) _ The family of a Lodi man killed by a shell at a fireworks display has accepted a \$550,000 settlement from the insurers of the Great Lakes Pyrotechnics Association.

Michael Maier, 32, was struck in the chest by the 8-inch wide shell

after it misfired in its homemade mortar tube Sept. 23, 1984, on a farm in the town of West Point during a fireworks display by the association.

The association, consisting of 50 to 60 fireworks buffs from Wisconsin and Illinois, was accused of failing to use an appropriate mortar, failing to bury it and failing to keep spectators at least 300 feet away.

The association admitted no liability in the out-of-court settlement approved this week in Columbia County Circuit Court.

3 08-09-87 04:58 ppd

(complete writethru _ fixing typos)

BEAVERTON, Ore. (UPI) _ A Sherwood woman shot and killed a Forest Grove man who reportedly broke into the home of her estranged husband and assaulted him early Sunday, Washington County sheriff's officers reported.

Sherre Calouri, a spokeswoman for the sheriff's office, said Robert Jay Richey was pronounced dead of gunshot wounds to the chest and abdomen at the scene of the shooting, which occurred shortly after 5 a.m.

Calouri said Richey, 33, allegedly entered a home in the Marlene Village area of Beaverton through a side window and assaulted David Wesley Rowe, 33, who was sleeping in a back bedroom of the home.

Rowe's estranged wife, Marjorie Lone Rowe, 33, of Sherwood, who was in the living room, heard the struggle and allegedly took a .45-caliber handgun and shot Richey, Calouri said.

Calouri said David Rowe and Richey knew each other, but authorities were unsure about a motive for the incident.

Later in the day, deputies returned to the home and served a search warrant, seizing one-half to three-quarters of a pound of methamphetamines with an estimated street value of \$10,000, Calouri said.

Also seized were two cases of illegal fireworks and several weapons, including an Uzi automatic machine gun equipped with a laser scope and silencer, Calouri said.

No charges had been brought in the case, she said, and an autopsy was planned Monday. Calouri said no one was taken into custody and an investigation was continuing.

David Rowe was taken to St. Vincent Hospital, where he was treated for a head wound he received during the assault, Calouri said. He was listed in good condition Sunday.

1 11-13-86 07:28 pcs

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (UPI) _ The Wyoming Supreme Court has affirmed the Teton County Commission's ban on fireworks in the county.

In a split decision Thursday, the court majority said the county commissioners have the power to control fireworks in the county. Wayne Gueke and the Wyoming Pyrotechnics Association had challenged the commissioners' adoption of a ban on the sale and use of fireworks in September 1985.

The court majority said the commissioners' action was in furtherance of their statutory duty to provide fire protection.

Ken Sutton, administrative fire chief for Teton County, said, "We're pleased the Supreme Court made the ruling the way they did." He said the county will have to educate people coming into the county that they cannot use fireworks in Teton County.

About 97 percent of the land in the county is managed by federal agencies that banned fireworks under federal law.

The dissenting opinion by Justice Richard Macy, with whom Justice Joseph Cardine joined, said a previous decision that affirmed a ban in Carbon County in 1984 is wrong. "The (state) statute permits the use of certain fireworks, and the county laws prohibit it. They cannot co-exist. This being the case, the county ordinance should be declared null and void."

4 03-13-87 12:38 aps

July Fourth by dawn's early light

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (UPI) _ The City Council, seeking to avoid the overwhelming crowds and violence that marred last year's festivities, voted to hold this year's July Fourth fireworks display by dawn's early light.

Under the measure passed late Tuesday, the July Fourth celebration this year will commence at 5:30 a.m. to the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" on the beach just north of the city pier.

The traditional nighttime show, held annually in Santa Monica city since 1961, has been attracting increasingly larger crowds over the years, and that has created problems for police.

Last year, 500,000 spectators overwhelmed the city's 150-member police force, and a 16-year-old boy was killed in one of the 200 fights that erupted during the event, Police Chief James F. Keane said.

Police and fire officials have repeatedly urged the city to cancel the display or replace it with a celebration that will attract a smaller crowd.

As a compromise, the council voted to hold this year's celebration, dubbed "By Dawn's Early Light," about 12 hours earlier than usual. Not everyone is happy with the idea.

"What's the sense of throwing a party if no one will come?" said Councilman William Jennings, who cast the single negative vote against the measure.

Councilman Dennis Zane disagreed, calling the early morning celebration "clever, exciting, interesting and off the wall."

Some critics of the plan warn that residents in the area are not going to like the sound of fireworks going off at 5:30 a.m.

City staff members promised the council that loud fireworks would not be used. But Gary Romano, general manager of Zambelli International Fireworks, which has handled the city's shows for the last three years, said that was impossible.

"There's no such thing as a quiet firework," he said.

1 03-10-87 06:59 pes

PENSACOLA, Fla. (UPI) _ The government rested its case Tuesday in the federal trial of an Air Force reservist accused of embezzling 40 pounds of plastic explosives from a special operations base in the Panhandle.

Charles Garringer, 39, of Florosa, a reserve master sergeant, is accused of stealing 32 blocks of the high explosive C-4 between 1983 and 1985 and filing false documents indicating they were used for firepower demonstrations.

The defense, which began presenting witnesses late Tuesday, claims Garringer is a scapegoat and blames the Air Force for poor accounting at Duke Field, an auxiliary base north of Eglin Air Force Base.

Attorneys said they expect the trial to end Wednesday.

Another master sergeant, Jerry Webb, 50, of Fort Walton Beach, is accused of being an accomplice in the theft of five pounds of C-4 in May 1985 and in the filing of a false document. His case was severed from Garringer's Monday. Webb will not be tried until next month.

Much of the testimony Tuesday concerned Fort Walton Beach's annual Billy Bowlegs festival, in which a wood and tarpaper fort is blown up during a mock invasion by pirates.

Webb has been responsible for exploding the fort for several years. The government has indicated the explosives may have come from Duke and brought in several witness who testified they did not know where the explosives came from.

But two defense witnesses late Tuesday testified that some of the Class B explosives used for a fireworks display during the festival were also used to detonate the fort.

An expert on the effect of a blast on structures said using C-4 would be "extremely dangerous."

C-4 is an off-white, pliable plastic explosive that is used by combat engineers to demolish buildings, bridges and other structures. It also has some civilian applications.

3 03-16-87 05:36 pes

Gunpowder explosion kills boy

GREENSBURG, Pa. (UPI) _ A 13-year-old boy experimenting with gunpowder by packing it into a hollow knife handle set off a grenade-force explosion that killed him, authorities said.

State police said Monday Brandon Hall was in his bedroom at his home in Hempfield Township when the accident occurred Sunday. He died 2 1/2 hours after the explosion at Westmoreland Hospital in Greensburg.

Hall was packing gunpowder from some fireworks into a "Rambo-style" survival knife, which has a detachable hollow handle designed to carry small items, police said.

The boy had no idea how explosive the gunpowder could be, state trooper Curtis Hahn said.

"We feel that the boy was just experimenting," Hahn said. "We don't feel that he was up to anything, making a bomb or anything. He's a good kid. He was just experimenting in his room."

Authorities found "opened pieces of fireworks, with the powder missing, in the waste can" in the boy's bedroom, he said.

Hahn said the inexpensive knife had rough threads in its screw-in handle, and the friction with the gunpowder could have sparked the explosion.

"We feel that possibly some of the powder was in the threads," he said. "When he screwed on the cap, it probably would have caused the explosion. There was nothing to indicate any matches or anything."

The knife handle "fragmented like a grenade would do," Hahn said, striking the boy in the chest and in the abdomen.

Westmoreland Hospital doctors tried unsuccessfully to "stop the bleeding and repair the damage done by the fragments," the trooper said. The boy died of chest trauma with hemorrhagic shock, doctors said.

Following the death, authorities warned other children to stay away from fireworks and gunpowder.

"It's a sad accident," Hahn said.

1 04-16-88 09:54 apd

ALBANY, Ore. (UPI) _ A truck overturned Saturday morning on an I-5 off-ramp, spilling fireworks and flammable extract flavoring and forcing the evacuation of a hotel and restaurant.

A dispatcher with the Albany Police Department said the triple-trailer truck overturned about 4 a.m., forcing the evacuation of the Pony Soldier Inn and the Tom Tom Deli and Restaurant, both of which are near the exit.

Authorities also closed the freeway about 6:40 a.m. to load most of the spilled material onto another truck, and reopened the road at 8:13 a.m., the dispatcher said.

No one was injured.

The businesses were evacuated and the highway was closed because authorities were concerned that the highly flammable materials might explode.

The dispatcher said later that authorities were escorting people staying at the hotel back to their rooms to collect their personal belongings. She did not know when the businesses would re-open.

3 04-12-88 12:47 acd

HAZELHURST, Wis. (UPI) _ A 22-year-old man stopped for a traffic violation had explosives in his car, including seven firebombs, Oneida County Sheriff Charles Crofoot said Monday.

The man appeared in Oneida County Circuit Court Monday and was released on a \$3,5000 signature bond.

Oneida County District Attorney Brian Maloney said the man had not been charged because he could not find a state law he wanted to use.

Maloney said by next week he will either charge him with manufacturing fireworks without a permit or refer the matter to federal authorities.

Crofoot said the man was stopped Sunday on U.S. 51 south of Hazelhurst.

Crofoot said the bombs were later destroyed at a Hazelhurst gravel pit. He said the bombs had short delay fuses and were equivalent to hand grenades.

12 01-15-87 11:45 pps

Possible bank holdup motive in artillery shell theft

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) _ Six people arrested in the theft of eight artillery shells may have been planning to use them to rob a bank, a federal investigator said.

Four of the people arrested in the 1985 theft of the 40-pound, 105mm Howitzer shells from a railroad boxcar near Port Chicago, Calif., were freed on \$25,000 bail each, a fifth was ordered held temporarily without bail and a sixth was arrested outside Denver, Colo.

"My gut feeling is they were planning to do a bank," Treasury Department agent James F. Crowell III said Thursday.

The shells were stolen on May 27, 1985, from an Army facility on the Suisun Bay about 35 miles east of San Francisco. Some shells were partially dismantled and at least one was sawed in half. Four were recovered in Madera, Calif., and four in Benicia, Calif., homes, Michael P. Hayes of the Naval Investigative Service said.

The blue prints to San Francisco Federal Savings Bank were found in a clandestine Madera workshop allegedly used to make pipebombs from the large shells, according the court affidavit.

Five pipe bombs that were "ready to go" were found in the Madera shed along with a 105mm Howitzer explosive sawed in half and a variety of fireworks, Crowell said.

Crowell said if just two of the devices had gone off they would be capable of "wiping out" the 20-story federal building, which occupies a city block, for instance.

He said the suspects were very fortunate that the bomb that had been sawed in half did not go off. If they had contained TNT, instead of a more stable granular explosive, the shells could never have withstood the friction of the sawing, he said.

Charged in the case are John Barrick, 28, Madera; William P. McDowell, 21, Martinez; Douglas Scott, 21, Madera; Gregory A. Young, 21, Martinez; Donna Horbeck, 20, Madera, and William Park, 37, Elizabeth, Colo. They face as much as 15 years in prison if convicted.

5 01-14-87 01:58 aes

(ohio)

Two charged with negligence in explosion acquitted

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (UPI) _ A federal judge has acquitted two Ohio men of civil charges filed in connection with the 1983 Benton fireworks factory explosion that killed 11 people.

U.S. District Judge R. Allen Edgar issued the directed verdict in the second day of a civil lawsuit against John Miller and Orville

Weigelt of Cleveland, Ohio, and Weigelt's Ohio Can Co.

The suit, which asked for millions of dollars in damages, was filed by relatives of nine of the victims, who were working at the illegal factory when it exploded May 27, 1983.

Lawyers for the defendants contended the employees knew they were working under illegal and dangerous conditions and assumed the related risks. Edgar agreed with that assessment, saying the victims "knew they were engaging in an illegal enterprise."

The workers "knowingly assumed the risk and the danger it represented," the judge said.

The explosion uncovered an extensive illegal fireworks network. A federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigation produced an 18-count indictment against 20 people that included charges of conspiracy to manufacture illegal explosives, dealing in them and shipping them.

Sixteen people pleaded guilty to criminal charges, including fireworks factory owner Dan Lee Webb. The remaining four defendants, including Miller and Weigelt, were convicted in a seven-day criminal court trial in June and July in federal court in Chattanooga.

Miller was convicted on five counts and Weigelt on two counts. Miller, 75, was sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined \$50,000. Weigelt, 57, was sentenced to three years in prison, five years probation and fined \$10,000.

Thomas Webb, an uncle of Dan Lee Webb, was the only factory employee to survive the explosion. Thomas Webb testified in the criminal trial that the factory employees earned about \$200 a week and worked there because they needed jobs.

2 05-13-87 11:21 ped

By BRUCE RITCHIE
MONTGOMERY, Ala. (UPI) _

The House Judiciary Committee approved by a narrow 6-5 vote a bill that would outlaw the sale of most fireworks in the state. House panel members approved the bill after they were told of two fireworks accidents that resulted in injuries to teenagers.

One of the teenagers was Greg Myers, 14, of Huntsville, who died when a van he was in burned after his package of bottle rockets exploded.

He was the son of Dr. Carl Wayne Myers, who has launched a campaign to ban fireworks statewide.

Bill sponsor Rep. Steve Hettinger, D-Huntsville, said it needs more support if it is to pass the House. But opponents of the bill told the panel that fireworks are safe when they are used properly.

1 05-11-87 11:49 acd

By United Press International

Pine Bluffs voters also overwhelmingly voted against allowing the

sale of fireworks in their community.

1 05-15-87 08:11 acd

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (UPI) _ Police found a small amount of suspected heroin, illegal fireworks and a gun during a raid on a home and arrested the woman and her 16-year-old son.

Diane Santillanes, 47, was later released on bond from the Bernalillo County Detention Center, jail officials said.

Police say they arrested Santillanes and her son after searching their home about 9 p.m. Thursday.

Police seized suspected heroin worth an estimated \$2,500, a 9 mm handgun, the illegal fireworks and \$800 in cash.

2 10-14-87 03:04 pcd

Colorado News Briefs

PARKER, Colo. (UPI) _ Parker school officials are investigating an incident in which seven students were sent to the hospital after eating poisonous chemicals.

The students were taken to the AMI Healthcare Plaza-Centennial facility Tuesday after complaining of nausea, stomach ache and a bad taste in their mouths.

School officials said the students apparently consumed some copper sulphate crystals, believing they were rock candy. All the students were discharged from the hospital after treatment.

1 04-16-87 07:08 ppd

By PAMELA A. MacLEAN

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) _ The California Supreme Court stepped into the high-stakes legal fight over whether the new "deep pockets" law should be applied to scores of lawsuits filed before it was approved by voters.

All seven justices voted Thursday to hear the appeal of Gregory Evangelatos who was blinded and lost several fingers in a 1980 explosion while he was making fireworks at home.

Proposition 51, known as the "deep pockets" initiative, was approved by voters June 3, 1986, as a reform designed to protect governments and busiensses with "deep pockets" of cash from bearing the burden of costly lawsuits.

Evangelatos, Los Angeles, challenged the constitutionality of the law and its application retroactively to his case, which was filed but not yet decided when the law went into effect.

He sued the wholesaler, retailer and four manufacturers of the chemicals he was using to make the fireworks. Three manufacturers of the chemicals won summary judgements and a fourth was dismissed from the case.

The court's agreement to hear the appeal will ultimately determine whether defendants, primarily insurance firms, can avoid being ordered to pay millions of dollars in damages in personal injury lawsuits.

Under Proposition 51, businesses or governmental bodies that lose personal injury suits pay for noneconomic damages _ such as pain and suffering _ only in direct proportion to their degree of fault.

Previously, even if they were only minimally at fault they could be forced to foot the entire bill because they had the most money.

The law did not specify whether it applied to lawsuits on fire on election day.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Bonnie Lee Martin ruled that Proposition 51 could be applied to Evangelatos' case.

The appeal court agreed and upheld the constitutionality of the law.

In decisions by the court under former Chief Justice Rose Bird, the appeals court cases that rejected retroactive application of the law were allowed to stand as precedent.

Under the new leadership of conservative Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas, the high court has agreed to resolve the retroactivity question.

The ultimate ruling is not expected for months or more than a year.

2 04-15-87 08:17 ped

Connecticut News Briefs

GAMBLING ARREST

WATERBURY, Conn. (UPI) _ A 73-year-old businessman was arrested Wednesday on gambling and fireworks charges inconnection with two raids in the past month at his Waterbury company, state police said.

John D'Agostino of Waterbury was charged with two counts of possession of illegal gambling devices, one count of sale of illegal gambling devices and two counts of sale and possession of fireworks.

He was released on a written promise to appear April 16 in Waterbury Superior Court.

D'Agostino owns Brass City Sales & Distributors, which state police raided March 20 and April 4, seizing cases of gambling items, firecrackers and records.

Among the items confiscated were 157 cases of assorted fireworks, 39 cases of illegal pull-tab tickets, 17 cases of "u-pick-em" bingo slips, and one case and six bags of powerful M-80 firecrackers, police said.

5 04-14-87 10:01 ped

Town says yes to fireworks, no to noise

PALM BEACH, Fla. (UPI) _ The Town Council of this peaceful island playground for the rich and well-mannered has given the go-ahead for a fireworks show at a druggists' convention later this month.

But when the firecrackers explode into showers of red, white, blue, green and gold, they must not make noise.

Oh, they may discreetly go `Thump' and, yes, even hiss a bit. But sonic booms and air-ripping crackles are verboten.

"The fireworks people have very loud, booming fireworks, and they have very quiet ones," Town Manager Douglas Delano said. "The quiet ones wouldn't be able to be heard outside the premises of The Breakers. They may be boring, but they're quiet. Picture yourself watching a typical Fourth of July fireworks display with your fingers in your ears."

With that, the council permitted the National Association of Chain Drug Stores to launch fireworks for its annual convention during the last week of April at the posh Breakers hotel. The panel had rejected the request last month, but reconsidered at the urging of Stayton Addison, president of the company that owns the regal hotel, a mammoth spread that has a golf course on its oceanfront grounds.

Palm Beach law prohibits the discharge of fireworks without council approval, Delano said. In its Monday vote, the board allowed an aerial display of the quiet brand of pyrotechnics fired off the beach but voted down a request for an unleashing of hot-air balloons.

"It gets back to the question of whether we run the town with dignity," Town Councilman Bernard Heeke said. "Hot-air balloons and fireworks create a carnival atmosphere in our back yards."

"I'm all for traditional fireworks on the Fourth of July, but I'm not quite fond of noise," said Ethel Lindsey, who lives near The Breakers and was one of two residents who complained about the planned fireworks.

She noted that the town allows for fireworks _ the noisy kind _ during Independence Day, an annual museum anniversary in February and a yearly boat parade in December.

"I think enough is enough. I'd like to have it quiet around here," neighbor Bess Summers said.

Breakers manager John West said the prospect of nearly noiseless firecrackers disappoints him.

The show had been planned for an estimated 2,300 conventioners April 27. Marcy Zambelli, a spokeswoman for Zambelli International Fireworks, said Tuesday that conventioner planners were not certain if the firm would be supplying any pyrotechnics.

"We're still in discussion. Fireworks, to me, are like apple pie. You got to have the sound," she said.

2 06-17-88 09:06 ped

Klansman sheriff's candidate has drug record

BARTOW, Fla. (UPI) _ A Ku Klux Klan grand dragon running as a Republican sheriff's candidate intends to stay in the race despite revelations he was convicted and served time for marijuana possession.

"I can't quit now," said Tony Bastanzio, 31. "I'm not going to lie. I smoked reefer."

But the candidate for Lake County sheriff said he has consumed neither alcohol nor marijuana for 12 years and surmised he might even benefit from news reports of his 1979 no contest plea to the third-degree felony.

"Let's face it, it gives me a hell of a lot of free publicity. I don't have to pay for what you're fixing to do," Bastanzio said when

asked to comment.

Bastanzio was arrested at his mother's Auburndale home on March 2, 1979.

Deputies armed with a search warrant uncovered 47 grams of marijuana, a set of scales, a book on how to grow marijuana, a photo album containing leaves and pictures of marijuana plants and several firecrackers, Polk County court records show.

He was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of fireworks, but the firecracker charge was later dropped. He was sentenced to a year in jail and five years' probation, the documents show.

But Bastanzio served only about three months in the Polk County Stockade at Bartow, and his probation was lifted in 1982 with "excellent compliance" listed as the rationale.

The full-time head of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which has members across central Florida, currently lives at Apopka in Orange County but plans to relocate soon in the Lake County community of Astatula.

Bastanzio prefiled for the fall election last month and will officially qualify for the race next month. He blamed his political opponents for raising the issue of his criminal history and said he planned to make light of the conviction during the campaign.

He said he feels obligated to his followers to remain a candidate in the fall election for sheriff against two other announced Republican candidates, two-term incumbent Noel Griffin Jr. and Seminole County Sheriff's Sgt. George Knupp.

"I've had a lot of calls, a lot of letters, saying, 'Man, go get 'em,'" Bastanzio said.

1 06-17-88 01:12 pcd

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) _ Fire officials have sent up a flare to warn Hoosiers that fireworks combined with parched earth could result in disaster.

State Fire Marshal Larry Bosell said fire officials throughout the state will meet at Indianapolis next Thursday to discuss ways to make the traditional Fourth of July celebrations more safe.

While there are no plans to cancel major fireworks displays, Bosell said firefighters are concerned about class C fireworks bought for individual use, such as sparklers.

In the wake of several fires blamed on fireworks in recent weeks, Bosell said he had thought of imposing a ban on the devices, which he admitted would be tough to enforce.

"We are very worried about this," the fire marshal said. "What we really need is for the public to realize that the situation is extreme, and if it stays this dry it's only going to get worse."

Gov. Robert Orr Wednesday imposed a state fire emergency, making uncontrolled or reckless burning illegal.

That means anyone who starts a fire with fireworks that has to be extinguished by the fire department can be charged with a class C misdemeanor, Bosell said.

1 06-17-88 07:44 acd

Fire destroys six homes

DETROIT (UPI) _ Youngsters shooting off fireworks may have started a five-alarm fire that destroyed six houses and damaged three others in a west-side neighborhood, authorities said.

It took 100 firefighters, hampered by a 14 mph wind and low water pressure, more than 90 minutes to bring the blaze under control Thursday evening. A firefighter who cut his hand was the only reported injury.

The fire broke out at 6:45 p.m. at Ace Pallets, which builds wooden pallets used to load and unload freight. The owner, Michael Pace, said he saw a group of youths shooting off fireworks about 6 p.m. near his yard.

"They were just standing there, shooting bottle rockets in the air," he told the Detroit News. "I didn't think anything about it. I mean, it was just kids playing."

Richard Rezek, an employee at the yard, said he saw the fire in some bushes in the yard and by the time he called the fire department, it had spread to the pallets.

Fanned by the wind, the flames shot 100 feet in the air, climbed trees and jumped from branches to houses as homeowners fled to safety. Six people in one family lost everything they owned.

Firefighters using 25 pieces of equipment had the blaze under control by 8:15 p.m. Senior Fire Chief Harry Manuel said the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Dorothy Sims said she and her husband spent Thursday painting the steps and window trim of their house and had gone inside for supper when she smelled smoke.

"I went out and saw the flames and said to my husband, 'Oh, my goodness, it's coming this way,'" she said. "We stood there awhile and I decided to get my car out of the way. Then it came so fast ... it was just blowing fire right at my house."

Sims said her house caught fire about 15 minutes later and burned to the ground.

In an unrelated fire Thursday in northwest Detroit, a 6-year-old boy who said he was playing with a lighter started a fire that killed his grandmother and destroyed their home, fire officials said.

Roberta Lewis, 72, died at 6:45 p.m. in the emergency room at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital with burns over 65 percent of her body, police said.

Her grandson told investigators he set some clothes afire on the back porch of his grandmother's home, and had been afraid to tell anybody they were burning. His mother said she tried to rescue her mother-in-law when she saw the flames.

Lewis, who was paralyzed on her left side as the result of a stroke several years ago, lived in the house with her daughter-in-law and six grandchildren, ages 3 to 11.

4 06-18-88 12:11 aed

CLEVELAND (UPI) _ A Youngstown-area man was indicted Friday on a federal charge accusing him of improperly storing fireworks.

Howard Martin Dean, 33, Austintown, allegedly stored explosive materials at a location less than a federal minimum distance from an inhabited building. The indictment followed an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

U.S. Attorney Patrick McLaughlin said that if Dean is convicted, he could be sentenced to one year in prison and fined \$1,000.

5 06-17-88 11:59 pcd

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) _ Wisconsin communities are being advised to use extreme care and common sense in issuing fireworks permits because drought has made the state a tinderbox.

The Department of Natural Resources on Friday imposed fire restrictions in 43 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Carroll Besadny, secretary of the State Department of Natural Resources, said the restrictions will remain in effect until rain eases the dry spell.

The restrictions affect campfires, cigarette smoking and other outdoor burning.

DNR fire prevention specialist Earl Meyer said he would like to see people voluntarily refrain from setting off fireworks.

"We want to bring this to the public's attention and prefer them not to use fireworks if at all possible," he said. "We're afraid a fire caused by fireworks could become a disastrous fire this year because of the drought."

Meyer said municipal fireworks displays rarely cause problems because they usually are set off over water and firefighters are on hand.

He said residents or campers who use fireworks in the woods pose the biggest threat.

6 07-16-86 03:49 apd

Anaheim voters will decide fireworks issue

By SUSAN SEAGER

ANAHEIM, Calif. (UPI) _ Voters in the home of one of the nation's largest fireworks manufacturers should decide whether to ban the fiery toys, the City Council has agreed.

The council voted unanimously Tuesday to place the proposed ban on so-called safe and sane fireworks on the Nov. 4 ballot, a proposal that has been voted down by council members five times in as many years.

The vote came in the wake of a devastating \$2.2 million pre-Fourth of July apartment fire, sparked by fireworks, that left nearly 300 people homeless.

"I think the incident of July 3 made them realize it's an issue the public feels very strongly about," city spokeswoman Sheri Erlewine said.

The council decided to put the proposed ban on the ballot, even though Pyrotechnics Inc., parent company to Red Devil fireworks and one of the nation's largest fireworks manufacturers, is based in Anaheim.

The proposal, which would become law if approved by a simple majority of the voters, would not affect planned professional fireworks displays like those staged at Disneyland or Anaheim Stadium, Erlewine said.

Besides Anaheim, "safe and sane" fireworks are legal in dozens of cities and counties in California. Those fireworks include sparklers, smoke bombs, sparkler-spewing cones and small firecrackers.

State law bans other fireworks, including aerial rockets, throughout California.

2 07-15-86 10:31 pcd

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) _ The son of a Rock County deputy who was burned in an illegal fireworks accident last month has died.

Timothy Scott, 20, was severely burned while riding in a car driven by his father, John Scott. Timothy Scott had a lighted firecracker on his lap and it accidentally ignited illegal fireworks in the car, a sheriff's report said.

The boy died Monday.

John Scott was burned when he tried to get his son's seatbelt unbuckled and get the boy out of the car. He was released from the hospital several days after the accident.

The car was engulfed in flames by the time deputies arrived on the scene, the report said.

John Scott was not charged for having illegal fireworks in the car, but a letter of reprimand was placed in his personnel file by Rock County Sheriff Joseph Black.

2 07-14-87 10:00 ped

Alabama News Briefs
By United Press International

Suspects arrested in school bombing

ATMORE, Ala. (UPI) _ No federal charges are expected in the July 5 bombing of Escambia County High School against the three adults and four juveniles who were arrested in the case, police said.

Lt. Larry Gibbs said that authorities on Tuesday arrested Charles Wade Madison, 21, Mark Daniel Presley, 23, and James Larry Presley, 19, of Atmore, and four juveniles whose names were not released.

"They all came from middle class and above families," he said.

The bombing of the school's gymnasium doors at 2 a.m. caused at least \$10,000 in damage, Gibbs said.

They were charged with possession of explosives and second-degree arson. Officials plan to ask the court to try the juveniles as adults.

"We don't really understand ourselves why they did it," Gibbs said. "They had been to a fireworks show July 4th and they were riding around and brought up the suggestion to do it. A couple of suspects did admit they were pretty intoxicated."

Gibbs said Madison, Mark Presley and a juvenile actually set the

explosive, which apparently was a device used by seismographic crews to register sound waves.

It was placed on the gym doors and detonated with a charge from a vehicle battery around a corner from the doors. Four suspects watched from about 100 yards away. The resulting explosion was heard five miles away but no one called police.

Gibbs said Mark Presley apparently had worked for a seismographic crew two years ago and allegedly had two of the devices. One was tested by exploding it on a tree, Gibbs said.

Gibbs said federal agents have decided to let Escambia County officials hand the prosecution without federal intervention.

6 07-15-87 07:51 ppd

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) _ A federal judge has refused to suppress evidence seized in a search of the belongings of Shaun Small, the alleged "bouquet bomber" who delivered an explosive bunch of flowers to a woman working in a San Francisco highrise.

The ruling made public Wednesday cleared the way for the start of Small's trial, which is set for Monday, July 20.

He allegedly hid a bomb in a bouquet of flowers delivered to the estranged wife of his employer, Peter Pilaski, at the General Services Administration office Nov. 17, 1986.

Melanie Pilaski, 41, was severely burned in the face by the blast and a co-worker, Pamela Castro, 41, sustained minor injuries.

Mrs. Pilaski suggested at the time she suspected Small was acting at the bidding of her husband, who was then in Germany. Pilaski has never been charged with any crime in connection with the bombing.

Small's lawyer Harold Rosenthal said he was disappointed with the ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert Peckham.

"It is disappointing but it doesn't alter our strategy in the case," Rosenthal said. "It will not change the defense."

He would not discuss details of Small's defense saying he preferred to have it spelled out in the courtroom.

Rosenthal contended the searches of Small's San Francisco apartment, a house at Clear Lake and his car were not totally voluntary.

He also argued that a shipping invoice in Small's name for fireworks, chemical powder and explosives was not in "plain view" of police during a search for other material. It should have not be allowed in the trial, he unsuccessfully argued.

Small, 27, worked as an apartment manager for Pilaski, who was involved with his wife in a bitter divorce fight at the time of the bombing. Melanie Pilaski sought half of nearly \$3 million in real estate holdings the couple amassed during their 18-year marriage, investigators said.

1 07-13-87 02:24 pcd

Explosion at fireworks factory

ARTHUR, N.D. (UPI) _ An explosion of undetermined cause in a garbage pit at the Starr Display Fireworks Inc. factory occurred about

11 a.m. Monday, authorities said.

There were no injuries.

The explosion occurred about 100 yards from the company's headquarter's building, said owner Cameron Starr.

Starr said he has no idea why or how the explosion occurred.

Bomb experts from the Cass County Sheriff's Department, the state Fire Marshal's office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Fire Arms were called to investigate, Starr said.

Arthur is about 30 miles northwest of Fargo.

6 07-17-87 10:07 ped

nxl, ntl

Man turns himself in to police after pit bull attack

BRIGHTON, N.Y. (UPI) _ The owner of a pit bull terrier that fatally injured a man on the Fourth of July has pleaded innocent to contempt charges for allegedly hiding the dog and dyeing its fur to save it from destruction.

The dog involved in the fatal attack on Robert Barbaria, 29, of Rochester was found Thursday night after a three-day search. The dog's white spots apparently had been dyed to disguise it, police said.

The animal was being held at the Humane Society of Rochester in Perinton, where it will likely be destroyed after the dye is removed and it is positively identified, said Brighton Police Chief Eugene Shaw.

The dog's owner, Mark Parise, 27, was arraigned on a misdemeanor charge of second-degree contempt of court Friday. Brighton Town Justice John Ark freed Parise on his own recognizance.

Barbarita suffered a 15-inch gash on his calf and thigh while watching an Independence Day fireworks display from Pinnacle Hill in the town of Brighton, a Rochester suburb. The dog, which was unleashed and away from its owner, bit Barbarita's brother, Dominic, 25, before attacking the victim, authorities said.

Barbarita died Thursday at about 7 a.m. at Genesee Hospital from a blood clot that traveled to his lungs, said Dr. Nicholas Forbes, Monroe County medical examiner.

At a hearing in Brighton Town Court Monday, Justice John Ark ordered that the dog be destroyed but stayed the order to give dog owner Mark Parise time to get a lawyer.

"I made the finding that this was a dangerous dog," said Ark, adding that Parise had admitted that his dog had previously bitten a sanitation worker.

The animal was missing when a dog warden checked on it Tuesday, Ark said.

Authorities finally found the dog Thursday night when Parise's mother called police to say the animal, with newly dyed fur, has been left in her yard.

Parise, who faced contempt charges for violating Ark's order to keep the dog secured, later called police and agreed to turn himself in, Shaw said.

"He gave a statement that alluded to the fact that the people at Pinnacle Hill had been throwing firecrackers at the dog to get the dog excited, and that's when the dog became vicious and attacked the

people," Shaw said.

Parise also told police he was beaten by Barbarita's brothers the night of the pit bull attack and feared for his life when Barbarita died, Shaw said.

4 07-12-87 11:22 ped

Fire marshal's sons helped investigate fireworks plant

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) _ Two teenage sons of state Fire Marshal William Hennosy were used as undercover agents before a raid was conducted at a Portage County fireworks outlet that resulted in the arrest of four people and the confiscation of \$1.5 million worth of fireworks.

Hennosy's sons, 15 and 17, and other undercover agents made illegal purchases of fireworks before Midwest Fireworks Inc., also known as Fireworks Unlimited, was raided, the marshal said.

On the basis of the buys, Hennosy led 30 deputy fire marshals and Portage County authorities on the raid. The raids also resulted in felony charges against Midwest's founder, Larry Lomaz.

Lomaz appeared in Portage County Municipal Court Friday for a preliminary hearing on whether to send the case to the county grand jury.

The illegal sales charge alleges sales of Class B (exhibition grade) fireworks to an unlicensed purchaser, sales of Class C fireworks not accompanied by a signed declaration by the customer that the fireworks would be taken out of state, and sales of fireworks not made on the premises.

On another felony count, Billy J. Phillips, chief fire marshal's inspector, testified Friday that Lomaz's company had built an addition to the sales building after permission to build the addition was denied because of regulations governing the spacing of fireworks buildings.

Lomaz has insisted that he sold the business to his brother, Doug, two years ago.

Portage County Common Pleas Judge Roger DiPaulo said he would issue his decision this morning. Lomaz is free on \$100,000 bond.

The business was shut down after the raid, but in another case involving Lomaz, visiting Common Pleas Judge Evan Reed Friday granted conditional permission for the firm to sell fireworks.

1 07-12-87 03:23 ppd

SALEM, Ore. (UPI) _ Preliminary reports to the state Fire Marshal's office list a number of injuries by fireworks around Oregon this year over the Fourth of July holiday period.

Nancy Campbell, fire education coordinator for the department, said there have been several reports of loss of vision in one eye from "bottle rockets" and one report of a hand lost to a M-80 fireworks device.

Campbell said the more serious injuries are caused by illegal fireworks. The department will have an updated report at the end of July when it has compiled reports received from emergency rooms throughout the state, she said.

1 07-17-87 12:51 ppd

Five youths charged in frenzied party

TACOMA, Wash. (UPI) _ The Pierce County prosecutor has filed arson, theft and mischief charges against five teenagers accused of ransacking, looting and then setting fire to a Tacoma home during a party that got out of control.

The June 29 party took place after Vicki Cole went away on vacation, leaving her 16-year-old son, Gunnar, in charge of her luxury beachfront home on Browns Point, county law enforcement officials said.

Gunnar's friends spattered the home with food, lit fireworks in its living room, stole guns and jewelry and set a blaze after Gunnar passed out from drunkenness, police said. Firefighters responding to the blaze found Gunnar unconscious and used emergency resuscitation measures to revive him.

Officials said the boy nearly died of heart failure during the all-night frenzy, which caused an estimated \$350,000 damage to the home.

"It could have been worse," Vicki Cole said Thursday. "Gunnar could have died, or the house could have burned to the ground. This is all so senseless."

The county charged five boys, ranging in age from 13 to 15, in connection with the vandalism and theft. Two 14-year-olds were charged with setting a fire in the home.

County Deputy Prosecutor Walter De Puy said the two also may face charges of assault with intent to kill.

Gunnar, who is staying outside Pierce County with his father, was not charged in the incident, nor were three girls who attended the party.

Court records said the teenagers began ravaging the home when some of them started "slam-dancing."

Vicki Cole, who is staying with friends as her home is being rebuilt, said they later turned to throwing eggs and dishes, tearing objects from walls and ransacking the home in search of guns and valuables. After dawn, several of the boys ignited fireworks in the living room of the home, leaving a Roman candle stuck in its ceiling, she said.

Authorities said the fire started when the two boys sprayed flammable cosmetic fluids on the wall of Gunnar's basement bedroom, then ignited the wall.

Gunnar was found by firefighters about 30 minutes after the fire erupted, firefighters and rescue workers said. His pulse and heart rate were critically low and, at one point, his heart stopped. Medics used a defibrillator to send an electric charge into the heart muscle to start it beating again.

The boy was released from Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle six days later after treatment that included the use of a decompression chamber to put air back into his smoke-filled lungs.

Cole said she previously had complained to police about the mischief of her son's friends. She also said they once threatened to kill her and burn down her house when she refused to let her son come out to play late one evening.

"I honestly think this could have happened to anybody's house," she said. "But I'm sure these kids enjoyed this more because it happened to me."

2 10-15-86 06:43 pcd

(Ill., Missouri)

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ A Columbus man was charged with second-degree murder and related charges in Rock County Court Wednesday because he was the officer of a company that prosecutors say caused the death of a Beloit man in 1983.

Richard Sheard is the third officer of Pyro Science Development Corp. to be charged in what District Attorney James Daley says could be a precedent-setting case for criminal corporate liability in Wisconsin.

Sheard and Pyro Science, as a company, made court appearances. Sheard requested a preliminary hearing and was freed on a recognizance bond.

Pyro Science, as a corporate entity, will be fined if it is found guilty as a company of the same charges the officers face.

Sheard, Pyro Science, Larry Cornellier Sr. Allyn Colantino of Chicago were charged with second-degree murder, two counts of being a party to injury by conduct regardless of life and two counts of endangering safety by conduct regardless of life. The company officers could get a 50-year prison sentence if convicted of all counts.

A Kansas City, Mo., man is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday in Rock County Circuit Court.

A 1983 explosion at a fireworks factory owned by Pyro Science near Milton leveled the building and killed Dennis Whitt, 26, of Beloit.

The length of time between the blast and the charges was not unusual because local investigation and prosecution could not take place until all federal investigations had been completed, Daley said.

Cornellier was fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency for a range of violations at the factory.

Four other people, including two of Cornellier's children, were injured in the blast. Angela Cornellier settled out of court for \$1.9 million, a second personal injury suit by one of the injured women is pending and Whitt's four children filed two separate suits and a settlement is being arranged by the workers' compensation fund.

11 10-17-86 11:12 pcd

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ A Beloit newspaper, quoting sources close to a fireworks factory explosion, said two officers of the company were not charged because they turned state's evidence and will testify against the officers that have been charged.

Paul Merkle, secretary for Pyro Science Development Corp. and a Rock County public defender, and Frederick Sandmeyer, vice president of Pyro Science, were given immunity in order for the prosecution to use

their testimony, the source said in a story published Friday.

Rock County District Attorney James Daley would neither confirm nor deny the men had been given immunity.

"It will all become clear at the preliminary hearing," he said.

Sandmeyer, 29, was in Janesville on Thursday but his court appearance was canceled after a meeting with the district attorney's office. Other immunity agreements may be forthcoming, the source said.

Larry Cornellier, of Beloit, Allyn Colantino of Chicago and Richard Sheard of Columbus along with Pyro Science as a corporate entity, have been charged with second-degree murder, party to injury by conduct regardless of life and party to endangering the safety of another.

A preliminary hearing will be held for all the officers and the corporation on Oct. 31.

Dennis Whitt, 26, of Beloit, was killed in the March 23, 1983 explosion at the fireworks factory that leveled the rented shed and injured four others.

Cornellier's attorney has filed a motion asking for the charges to be dismissed on the grounds the state has not produced enough evidence to establish probable cause that a crime was committed.

(01X 1 03-17-88 11:44 acs

Minnesota Legislative Briefs

By United Press International

ST. PAUL, Minn. (UPI) _ The House has passed a bill that would stiffen penalties for possession of large amounts of fireworks.

The House voted 122-1 Wednesday to raise the maximum penalty to three years in prison and a \$5,000 for sale or possession of 100 pounds or more of fireworks. The current penalty is 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.

If the amount of fireworks involved is between 25 and 100 pounds, the sentence would be one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. Possession or sale of less than 25 pounds would remain a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.

5 09-17-87 07:31 pcd

(Correcting number injured, date)

By KEN FLYNN

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (UPI) _ Three workers were electrocuted, four others were injured, two critically, in a fireworks explosion and 20 others received minor injuries during the Independence Day holiday, police said Thursday.

Pickup 2nd graf: Dead from

By KEN FLYNN

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (UPI) _ Three workers were electrocuted, two others were injured in a fireworks explosion and 20 others received minor injuries during the Independence Day holiday, police said Thursday.

Dead from a freak accident when steel scaffolding hit a

low-hanging, high-tension cable Wednesday morning are Luciano Regalado, 57, his son, Jesus Regalado Valles, 17, and Jesus Macias Amaro, 18.

In a separate accident Tuesday night, Lorenzo Flores Martinez, 29, and Pedro Hernandez Nunez, 36, were burned when a load of fireworks and artificial lights exploded in the downtown plaza.

Minor traffic accidents sent at least 20 to area hospitals on Sept. 15-16, police said.

Included among the arrests were 34 who were detained for minor scuffles between the opposition National Action Party (PAN) and the government-backed Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) at rival celebrations of Mexico's most important holiday.

Police said the three workers who were killed were constructing a community hall in a poor neighborhood of the city. The building was being constructed with funds from Juarez City Hall, police said.

Witnesses told police the tragedy occurred when the two younger men moved the scaffolding, bringing it into contact with a low-hanging high tension cable.

Officers said Regalado Valles tried to come to the assistance of the two and was electrocuted instantly. The two young men died two hours later in a Juarez hospital, police said.

Flores Martinez and Hernandez Nunez were attempting to set up a fireworks display for PAN in the downtown Juarez plaza, in front of the cathedral, police said. The PAN celebration was a separate protest demonstration, designed to offset the official celebration of the traditional "grito" ceremony being conducted by PRI at Juarez City Hall.

Hospital officials said the two were in critical condition with second and third-degree burns over most of their bodies.

Also receiving burns in the same accident, but not as seriously, hospital officials said, were Humberto Santillan Palacios, 20, and Edeberto Galindo, Jr., no age available, the son of a PAN federal congressman.

The "grito" ceremony commemorates the cry for independence uttered by Father Miguel Hidalgo in the early morning hours of Sept. 16, 1810. His speech at the church in Guanajuato was credited with providing the spark that began the revolution against Spain.

City police said a total of 34 people were arrested as the result of minor scuffles between members of PAN and PRI.

1 04-29-87 12:35 apd

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) _ Alameda County supervisors have voted unanimously to ban the sale and use of all kinds of fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county, but not until after the forthcoming July 4 holiday.

The ban passed Tuesday will not go into effect until July 7 so that charitable organizations which depend on the sale of fireworks for revenue can profit from this year's Independence Day celebration.

In the past, only charitable organizations have been allowed to sell fireworks and even they could only sell "safe" fireworks, such as sparklers.

Supervisor Ed Campbell said that although a ban on dangerous fireworks is already on the books, the only way for such a ban to work is to prohibit the sale of all fireworks.

1 04-29-87 04:20 acd

CHICAGO (UPI) _ A 2-year-old boy died in a fire caused when his brother set off fireworks in their public housing apartment, while two other fires left two young girls dead and two women injured.

Anthony Fraction was killed when an afternoon fire swept through the bedroom of the toddler's apartment in the Robert Taylor Homes public housing project Tuesday.

Police said Anthony's 9-year-old brother, Fred, bought bottle rockets and whistling bombs from peddlers and lit them in a bedroom where Anthony was sleeping.

Fire spread through the bedroom and fatally burned Anthony as his 29-year-old mother and a 15-year-old brother tried to extinguish the blaze.

Police arrested two people who allegedly sold the fireworks to Fred Fraction and charged them with illegal possession of fireworks. William Golden, 55, and Estella Price, allegedly sold fireworks and snacks from a van parked outside the project.

1 02-16-88 07:14 pcs

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ The Senate State Government Committee Tuesday voted to legalize the limited sale of firecrackers and other larger fireworks in Iowa.

The proposal approved by the House last year won passage in the Senate panel Tuesday on an 8-6 vote. It would allow firecrackers, bottle rockets, fountains, spinners and other items to be sold for more than a month before and after the Fourth of July.

Backers of the bill said Iowans currently are buying fireworks, but they spend their money across the state's borders, especially in Missouri. Opponents said larger firecrackers, currently outlawed in Iowa, are a dangerous threat to the safety of children.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Hutchins, D-Audubon, has indicated in the past he does not support the bill, however he has refrained from threatening to block its debate on the Senate floor.

3 02-18-88 08:32 aes

(updating first brief; suspect captured in robbery-killing)

WALTERBORO, S.C. (UPI) _ Police were holding a suspect Thursday in the robbery and multiple stabbing death of a fireworks store clerk who described her attacker on her death bed.

Carlos D. Elliott, 23, was arraigned before a magistrate and jailed

without bond in the Colleton County Jail in the death of Eunice Lee Huckabee, 55, a Colleton County sheriff's deputy said.

Police acting on a tip apprehended Elliott in the small community of Neyles about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, eight hours after the killing, the deputy said.

Elliott is accused of entering the store near Interstate 95 as Huckabee reported for work at 3 p.m. Tuesday and robbing the woman of \$100, said Colleton County Coroner R.A. Bryan. The killer then fled in the woman's car.

The slaying remains under investigation, but Bryan said he thought the robbery-murder may have been drug-related.

Huckabee was stabbed numerous times in the chest during the robbery, Bryan said. She was taken to a local hospital, where she told police before she died her attacker was a black man, the coroner said.

Bryan was still awaiting autopsy results Wednesday, but said Huckabee probably died of internal bleeding.

Police said the bandit also made off with Huckabee's pocketbook, a diamond ring, a wedding band and her wristwatch.

It had not been determined whether Huckabee put up a struggle with her assailant, Bryan said Wednesday.

3 16 Feb 88 09:10 Tuesday
China-New-Year, Chinese Celebrate New Year

BEIJING (AP) _ Crowds jammed squares and streets and couples raced to the

alter in droves as China braced for its favorite holiday, a three-day frenzy of feasts, festivals and fireworks to usher in the Year of the Dragon.

The Lunar New Year, renamed Spring Festival after the 1949 Communist takeover, traditionally is China's most important holiday. It was welcomed with more than usual fanfare because the lunar new year starts the Year of the Dragon, the most auspicious of the 12 animals in Chinese astrology.

The dragon, the symbol of China, is supposed to bring luck, especially for marriage, birth and business.

Newspapers have reported a dramatic increase in recent weeks in the number of couples registering for marriage in hopes of having a "dragon baby," and have lectured against this "feudal" attitude.

"In traditional Chinese philosophy, the dragon is the most respectable animal, because the dragon is the symbol of the emperor," said Sung Siu-kwong in Hong Kong, an author and television personality on traditional Chinese practices.

"The common people believe that those babies ... born in the Dragon Year must be strong, smart, and energetic," he said.

It was not known how the new year would influence China's birth control policies, which aim at restricting each family to one child.

During the past decade, Communist authorities have taken a more relaxed attitude toward other New Year customs formerly condemned as feudal. Folk fairs at temples and former temple sites have been revived, giving the holiday a taste of its traditional flavor.

In Beijing, a temple fair at the Longtan or Dragon's Pool Park, one of the year's special dragon-related activities, drew more than 50,000 revelers on opening day Monday.

Transportation officials increased the number of trains and flights in

anticipation of a record 750 million travelers rushing home to spend Spring Festival with families.

For the first time this year, Taiwanese also are making the trek home following their government's lifting in October of a 40-year ban on travel to the mainland. Nearly 60,000 Taiwanese have visited the mainland since the ban was lifted.

The government has cut down on sales of one popular Spring Festival item fireworks.

In Beijing last year, \$2.7 million dollars worth of firecrackers were sold, with some families spending as much as \$54, or the equivalent of two months' salary.

But this year, the state reduced firecracker sales by 30 percent because of the injuries, death and damage they have caused. Firecrackers were blamed last year for 3,040 fires that killed 17 people and caused nearly \$1 million in damages.

In Hong Kong, about 400,000 residents had left the British colony by today for holidays abroad. Many more of the colony's 5.7 million inhabitants

were expected to travel overseas during the holiday.

The colony's spanking clean subway system has put up posters urging passengers not to carry such traditional holiday objects as lighted joss sticks and roasted pigs onto the trains.

A spectacular fireworks display Thursday night is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of people to the shores of Hong Kong's famous Victoria Harbor.

2 09-19-86 01:38 aed

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (UPI) _ A third Youngstown-area man has been convicted of manslaughter in connection with an explosion at an illegal fireworks factory.

Robert G. Aulisio, 39, of Austintown pleaded guilty Wednesday to nine counts of involuntary manslaughter. Mahoning County Common Pleas Judge Elwyn Jenkins sentenced Aulisio for five to 25 years in prison.

The May 20, 1985 explosion killed nine people in rural Beaver Township.

Aulisio will be eligible for parole consideration in about four years. His state sentence will be served concurrently with a two-year federal sentence he is serving in Terre Haute, Ind., for conspiracy.

8 06-16-87 10:21 apd

(complete writethru _ fire completely contained)

PALM SPRINGS (UPI) _ After battling all night in rugged terrain, firefighters early today finally managed to contain a stubborn 1,200-acre brush fire sparked by fireworks over the weekend, officials said.

Firefighters had a line completely around the fire, which erupted about 5 p.m. Sunday, at 6 a.m., said Riverside County fire dispatcher Bob Ingram.

Ingram said about 10 firefighters would remain at the scene of the

blaze 10 miles northwest of Palm Springs to ensure there were no flare-ups.

Greater control of the 1,200-acre blaze permitted about 60 people evacuated from the nearby community of Snow Creek to return to their homes Monday morning, fire officials said.

The fire, raging through brush in rugged terrain, came within a quarter-mile of the 38-house community, but no homes were damaged by the blaze, officials said.

About 500 firefighters using bulldozers and shovels fought 50-mph gusts and steep terrain to cut a fire line around the blaze, which could not be attacked with air tankers due to the fierce winds.

Four firemen suffered ankle sprains and other minor injuries, but no serious injuries were reported.

Fire officials late Sunday found four bottle rockets at the origin of the fire, indicating the blaze was started by people playing with fireworks, which are illegal in Riverside County.

3 06-15-87 08:18 ped

Illegal fireworks target of state crackdown

By REBECCA KOLBERG

BALTIMORE (UPI) _ The State Fire Marshal's Office has launched a pre-Fourth of July crackdown on illegal fireworks in Maryland with a thrust on halting the flow from neighboring states where fireworks are allowed.

Fire Marshal Rocco Gabriele said the only fireworks that are legal to use and possess in most parts of Maryland are gold label sparklers, which contain no chlorates or perchlorates.

But Gabriele emphasized all fireworks, including any kind of sparklers, are banned in Baltimore city and Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

The fire marshal said this year's pre-Fourth of July crackdown will focus on stopping the shipment of fireworks into Maryland from Ohio, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Also targeted will be the purchase of fireworks by mail order.

"Any illegal fireworks found in our state will be subject to seizure," Gabriele said in a statement released Monday.

Last summer, the fire marshal's office and related agencies seized and destroyed more than 2 million pieces of illegal fireworks in Maryland.

"I think it (illegal firework use) is increasing. People tend to view the fireworks law as not very important ... All you have to do is ride around the streets in a city and hear all the fireworks," said John Farrell, chief deputy state fire marshal.

Farrell said the illegal use and sale of fireworks is greater in areas of Maryland that border jurisdictions allowing the devices, such as Montgomery County near the District of Columbia. The Montgomery County Fire Chief held a news conference Monday to announce a local drive to stamp out firework use.

The fine for possession or use of fireworks in Maryland is \$250, while the maximum penalty for selling or distributing fireworks is

\$1,000. Shipping or transporting fireworks into Maryland from other states or countries is also illegal.

Gabriele said the safest way to enjoy fireworks on Independence Day and other festive occasions is at a licensed, supervised public display.

Nationwide statistics show that nearly 10,000 people annually are seriously hurt by fireworks, with injuries ranging from eye injuries to amputations to severe burns.

"The danger is very obvious to me _ it's a fire. You have to light a match and have a fuse," Farrell said. "Over the years, fireworks have proven to be a dangerous commodity."

3 06-18-87 12:32 aed

n.y.

Officials seize 6 tons of fireworks

BOSTON (UPI) _ State and federal officials have seized 6 tons of fireworks illegally shipped from China and carried by train across the United States in a container with shoes, authorities said.

The 12,000 pounds of explosives, seized at the Romar terminal in the city's Brighton section Tuesday, packed enough power to "blow up the whole neighborhood," State Trooper William Shaughnessy said Wednesday.

Shaughnessy said the container manifest listed the cargo destination as the American Fireworks Manufacturing Inc. of Utica, N.Y. However, Shaughnessy said that company denied ordering the load.

"We have never had a seizure that large in Massachusetts," Shaughnessy said. "(The responsible party) violated maritime laws ... and broke every rule in the book coming across the country."

State police have not placed a price on the explosives, but said the cargo is of "serious value."

The 364 cartons of Class B and C fireworks normally are used for ground or air displays. They are illegal in Massachusetts, officials said.

Shaughnessy said the cargo _ shipped within a 30-foot container carrier along with shoes _ was transported from Keelung, China, on or about May 25 on the ship President Tyler.

The cargo was unloaded at an unnamed California port and sent by train across America to the Brighton yard, said Shaughnessy. Authorities said freight yard officials were skeptical of the load because it was not properly marked.

Shaughnessy said the cargo has been stored at an unnamed location pending further investigation.

4 06-19-87 08:51 ped

By United Press International

As the Fourth of July approaches, new state laws pertaining to fireworks are causing confusion across Ohio.

Some city fire officials are trying to enforce restrictive local ordinances modeled after national law, despite the state's more liberal rules. In some cases, local officials even have seized fireworks.

The new laws have "caused confusion from all corners," inspector Billy Phillips of the state fire marshal's office in Columbus told the Akron Beacon Journal in a Friday story.

"We've got instances of fire chiefs calling us, saying they confiscated these things, and we tell them to get the stuff back as soon as possible before they get sued," he said. "There are no legal grounds to confiscate."

Much of the confusion seems to be caused by sparklers, smoke bombs, noisemakers and other novelty fireworks, which are legal under the 1986 Ohio revised fire code. Effective this year, however, minors may not purchase the items.

The code restricts the manufacture, sale and use of more powerful fireworks in the state.

Akron fire inspectors have told several retailers, including Gold Circle and Revco, that novelty fireworks are illegal. Gold Circle has removed the products from its two stores in Akron, but not from 30 other stores in Ohio.

Mr. Fireworks, an Indiana fireworks manufacturer, went to court to challenge Dayton's ordinance that prohibits the sale of novelty fireworks. Montgomery County Common Pleas Judge Richard Dodge this week suspended the ordinance while the case is pending.

A Youngstown fireworks manufacturer, B.J. Zoldan, filed suit Tuesday in Stark County Common Pleas Court against Alliance's ban on the sale of novelty fireworks.

Phillips said such lawsuits are becoming more common.

"Every day I hear of a new suit being filed," he said. "It's prevalent throughout the state."

7 06-20-87 01:56 aed

Fireworks makers fired-up over laws
By United Press International

Conflicts between new state fireworks laws and more restrictive local ordinances are causing statewide confusion, an official says.

As the Fourth of July approaches, some city fire officials are trying to enforce local ordinances modeled after national law, despite the state's more liberal rules. In some cases, local officials even have seized fireworks.

The new laws have "caused confusion from all corners," inspector Billy Phillips of the state fire marshal's office in Columbus told the Akron Beacon Journal in a Friday story.

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"Every day I hear of a new suit being filed," he said. "It's prevalent throughout the state."

15 06-19-87 12:46 pcd

ENID, Okla. (UPI) _ Damage from Monday's fireworks explosion at Western Enterprises Inc. is estimated at \$120,000, but that figure does not include damage to homes or businesses in the area, authorities said Friday.

The \$120,000 figure includes damages to buildings, contents and vehicles at the Western Enterprises site, said Steve Frantz, secretary-treasurer of the fireworks distributor.

Frantz said the company was back to business as usual Friday and was shipping fireworks for shows. The shipments had been delayed while authorities investigated the explosion that injured one worker.

The worker, Steve Linn, 35, said in a letter read at a Friday news conference, that he saw small yellowish-white sparks as he unloaded 2 1/2-inch-diameter Chinese aerial shells in a boxcar about 4:45 p.m. Monday.

In the letter, Linn said he ran to an office yelling as loud as he could, then ran to a hill and heard the first loud bang as the explosions began. He said he was knocked to the ground and saw his injured leg, which he thought had been torn off by the explosion. Linn suffered a compound fracture to his right leg and is hospitalized.

Linn said he was able to reach a small structure on the north side of the site, where he waited for help.

Frantz said the company is not considering legal action against the manufacturer of the shells. He said all the shells were lost in the explosion.

Paul Brantley, of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said the agency had found no violations at the company.

The investigation of the explosion is continuing, said Mike Carlisle, one of the owners of Western Enterprises.

2 06-16-87 10:00 ped

Around Western Pennsylvania
By United Press International

PITTSBURGH (UPI) _ Police are cracking down on the illegal sale and use of fireworks in the city.

A special team of officers seized more than 15 cases of fireworks during a series of recent raids, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

City law prohibits the use of firecrackers, smoke bombs, sparklers and other fireworks.

Editors: The following news events are scheduled today in Washington state:

RENTON _ The Renton Fire Department stages on a demonstration on potential fireworks injuries, at 10 a.m. at Valley Medical Center, 400 S.W. 43rd St. Contact: 235-2642.

1 20 Jun 87 11:17 Saturday
Fireworks-Test, Psych Tests For Fireworks OK

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) _ If you want to run an official Fourth of July fireworks show in Rhode Island next week, see your psychiatrist first.

You'll also need a specially designed truck to transport your fireworks, a magazine for storage and plenty of expensive liability insurance.

Operators seeking a Rhode Island license for fireworks displays are tested psychologically and on their knowledge of handling rockets and explosives, said Stanley A. Davies of the state fire marshal's office.

"We have a licensed psychiatrist send us a letter saying that this man or woman is qualified and doesn't have any hangups about fireworks," Davies said.

The requirement for a psychological examination was decreed in 1974 by then-Fire Marshal Earl Shannon, said Terry Moy, an explosives technician in the fire marshal's office. Moy and Davies said they didn't know why the examination was required.

"It doesn't really make a lot of sense, because the requirements for Class A _ high explosives _ do not include psychological tests," Moy said.

There are 37 licensed fireworks shooters in the state, and most have been in the business for years, he said.

Among sites planning displays for the holiday are Roger Williams Park in Providence, Rocky Point amusement park in Warwick and King Park on the waterfront in Newport.

Bristol, which calls its Independence Day celebration the oldest in the country and largest on the East Coast, plans a fireworks show at Colt State Park on July 5.

Many other towns, such as Woonsocket, no longer shoot fireworks, Davies said. Woonsocket dropped its shows because of liability concerns.

In Newport, fire marshal Garrett Sullivan said promoters are required to get a permit from the fire department in addition to hiring a licensed shooter. Most other towns have similar requirements.

Sullivan said fire officials monitor safety during the show. "People have to be, by state law, 200 feet away from the guns," Sullivan said.

Promoters must also bring the fireworks into the state in a special vehicle and store them in an approved magazine until the day of the show, Davies said.

"The truck has to be wood-lined, so the explosive material doesn't come in contact with any metal" and strike any sparks, Moy said.

Also, the truck must be double-locked for security, carry two fire extinguishers and placards warning that Class B explosives are inside, he said.

Violators risk having their fireworks seized.

"We've got loads of confiscated fireworks. We confiscated some last week," Davies said. "In 1985, we got about 28 tons of fireworks _ two trailer truck loads."

2 20 Jun 87 10:55 Saturday
Fireworks-Safety, Warning: Fireworks Dangerous

NEW YORK (AP) _ When the bombs go bursting in air this Independence Day, it may be prudent to keep your head down.

Those "pyrotechnic technicians" who stage fireworks shows in small towns and big cities may not be the experts most people assume. No federal regulations govern who can stage such shows, and laws vary widely from state to state, with regulation often in the hands of local fire departments and town councils.

Accidents happen. On the last two July Fourths, at least 80 people were injured at organized fireworks displays.

These included 25 injured when fireworks burst into flames and shot into a crowd at Rehoboth, Mass.; 30 burned and cut when a rocket flew into stands at Newark, N.J.; seven hurt when a shell exploded too close to the ground in Wake Forest, N.C.; six injured when a display rack in Topeka, Kan., tipped over, showering a crowd with fireworks; 12 injured when a shell packed among other fireworks exploded, sending them flying through spectators at Land O'Lakes, Fla.

Last year, a fireworks company employee in Madison, Wis., died as he was lighting 5-inch mortars, and a volunteer fire chief in Edgewater, Fla., was killed when he was loading fireworks for a show. The Florida death led the county where it occurred to require future displays to employ experts.

That's not to say all or even most shooters are incompetent amateurs. Local authorities and insurance companies generally want assurance that shooters know what they're doing or have previous experience.

Nevertheless, "an awful lot of people aren't trained and don't know the actual consequences of what they're doing," said Geoffrey Richardson, a demolition expert and fireworks shooter from Grand Ledge, Mich.

"I'd rather blow a building, if you're talking about safety," he said.

The federal government strictly regulates Class C fireworks, the small fountains, sparklers and noisemakers sold to the general public in many states, but has little control over who can shoot display fireworks.

These are not minor noisemakers. Shells can be as large as 24 inches in diameter, and they pack a wallop, spewing fire and debris over 500 feet.

Although the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms requires anyone who purchases or possesses display fireworks to obtain a permit, the permit is no guarantee of competency.

"Their background investigation for issuing the permits is basically a criminal investigation to see if you have a criminal record," said John Conkling, executive director of the American Pyrotechnic Association. "There is no investigation into your expertise. If you want to go into the display fireworks business, you could be in the business in short order."

State regulations run the spectrum. In some states — Texas, California, South Carolina, Maine and Maryland among them — licensed operators must pass a written competency exam. In other states, such as Illinois, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, oversight is left to local governments.

In Rhode Island, the state requires would-be fireworks operators to take a psychological test to make sure the person "doesn't have any hangups about fireworks," said Stanley A. Davies of the state fire marshal's office.

3 17 Jun 87 07:20 Wednesday
Fireworks-Safety, Keep The Fun In Fireworks

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an average year more than 10,000 Americans are treated at hospital emergency rooms for injuries related to fireworks, and a major share of these accidents will occur in the next few weeks.

Across much of the nation the approach of Independence Day is attended by the appearance of fireworks sales — either legal or illegal, depending on local laws.

And while most pyrotechnics will result only in bright colors and loud noises in a fun-filled celebration, an unfortunate few will use them carelessly, resulting in injury.

"There is nothing we can do to replace a lost limb. Burns are painful, burns are difficult to care for, burns take a long time to heal," warned Dr. Carlos Silva of Washington.

The largest of the popular fireworks, such as cherry bombs, M-80s, M-100s and silver salutes, were banned more than a decade ago, the Consumer Product Safety Commission reports. Yet at this time of year they still manage to appear for sale.

One attempt to get around the law involves sales of fireworks kits, which contain the materials for people to make their own large fireworks. Federal officials warn that these can be very dangerous.

Just the friction of mixing the chemicals together can cause some of them to ignite, they warn. And some kits have been found which contain the equivalent of several sticks of dynamite.

Even the smaller, Class C, fireworks that are allowed in many areas can prove dangerous if misused, the safety agency warns.

One thing that is important to remember is that fireworks, while fun, are not toys and young children should not be allowed to play with them. Even

the popular sparklers, which many people consider safe, burn at very high

temperatures and can easily ignite clothing or burn skin. And children do not realize the danger.

Older children may be able to use fireworks safely if closely supervised and warned about using proper precautions. Do not allow running or horseplay while using fireworks.

Here are some fireworks safety precautions from the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

_ Before using any fireworks read and follow all warnings printed on the labels.

_ Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from houses and flammable materials.

_ Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies, and for dousing fireworks that don't go off.

_ Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.

_ Be sure other people are out of the way before lighting fireworks.

_ Never ignite fireworks in any container, but especially a glass or metal container.

2 12-16-87 02:03 pes

Maryland News Briefs

By United Press International

ELKTON, Md. (UPI) _ The State Fire Marshal's Office Wednesday tried to find out the source of thousands of fireworks confiscated at a Cecil County airport.

The fireworks and 30 bags of marijuana were discovered in a locked storage trailer behind a hangar at the Cecil County Airpark off state Route 279 in Elkton.

The contents of the 80 cases that officials believe were stolen ranged from small firecrackers to high-explosive rockets.

Officials said there is no known report of a theft, but the fireworks appeared to have been stolen from the Maryland State Manufacturing Co. The firm is located near Elkton.

An investigation is underway to determine who was storing the items in the trailer. ____

5 03-17-87 10:01 pcs

(mo.)

Bill would legalize fireworks

By SCOTT SONNER

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ A legislative panel has passed a bill ending Iowa's prohibition on the sale and possession of most fireworks.

The measure, sent to the floor of the House on a 17-7 vote Tuesday, would legalize the possession of Class "C" fireworks, including smaller firecrackers, for people 16 years of age or older, but only between Memorial Day and July 20.

Opponents said the measure would subject children to the dangers of explosives, but supporters said it would help keep Iowans from driving to Missouri to buy their fireworks.

"Would it be fair to say this is an economic development bill for the southern two tiers of Iowa counties?" Rep. Kay Chapman, D-Cedar Rapids, asked Committee Chairman Dan Jay, D-Centerville, the bill's key backer.

"Let's just say I'm getting awfully tired of seeing those Polk County cars drive through my district every Fourth of July," said Jay, who lives about 10 miles from the Iowa-Missouri border.

Jay said the bill would allow sale and possession of such things as smaller Black Cat firecrackers, but not Cherry Bombs.

"In recent years, the federal law has reduced the amount of powder or explodable matter allowed in Class `C' fireworks," he said. He also said the current Iowa ban on fireworks is not working.

"If you are out and about on July Fourth, you know they are not doing a very good job," he said.

Rep. Bill Harbor, R-Henderson, another supporter of the bill, said the proposal would allow cities and counties a chance to outlaw fireworks.

"If they decided they wanted to opt out, they could say no fireworks sold, displayed or possessed. We want to give them that option," he said.

Jay said the bill represented a mixture of the laws in the more than 30 states that currently allow the sale and possession of fireworks.

"It's a mix-and-match assortment with an effort to look at more restrictive language," he said.

Rep. Dorothy Carpenter, R-Des Moines, said she objected to persons ages 16 and 17 igniting fireworks.

"I have great apprehension about making fireworks legal... You are making fireworks eligible to young people," she said.

State and county fairs would be exempt from the bill, which also requires a person to be 18 years of age to purchase fireworks.

3 03-19-87 09:31 pes

House approves several bills, fireworks penalties, scholarship program
By QUINCEY JOHNSON

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (UPI) _ A bill increasing the penalties for the illegal possession or sale of fireworks and a measure enhancing the state's Distinguished Scholar Program have cleared the House of Delegates.

By a 100-19 vote, the House passed a bill Thursday that would increase the current \$250 maximum fine to \$1,000 for possession or for setting off fireworks. The bill also gives courts the option of imposing a jail term of up to 1 year.

The measure, sponsored by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, also increases the penalties for selling fireworks from \$1,000 to \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years.

Delegate William Horne, D-Talbot and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the bill was requested by the state fire marshal's office.

"The fire marshal has come across huge, tremendous loads of fireworks," Horne told the House. "They did not feel the (current) penalties would deter that. We're talking tractor trailer loads."

Asked about the bill's impact on minors who set off fireworks, Horne said the increased penalties are maximum recommendations and courts could use discretion in the case of minors.

2 03-20-87 08:58 pes

Connecticut News Briefs GAMBLING RAID

WATERBURY, Conn. (UPI) _ State police have raided a business, seizing cases of gambling paraphernalia, a large quantity of fireworks and various files and records, a spokeswoman said.

The State Police Legalized Gambling Investigation Unit acted Friday on a warrant to search Brass City Sales and Distributors on West Clay Street, which is owned by John D'Agostino, 73, of Waterbury.

The raid was part of an ongoing probe of distribution of illegal gambling devices and arrests are pending, police said.

Among the items seized were 39 cases of illegal pull-tab tickets, 17 cases of "u-pick-em" bingo slips, 20 cases of assorted fireworks, nine bags of M-100 firecrackers and one case and six bags of M-80 firecrackers.

Police also confiscated records of alleged purchases and sales of illegal gambling devices and fireworks, officials said.

1 03-19-87 07:19 pps

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) _ The federal government has filed a lawsuit against two Logan businessmen and their companies, asking they be ordered to stop transporting across state lines explosive materials used to make fireworks.

The government Thursday filed suit against Robert St. Clair and Square Lake Enterprises, along with Kevin Keller and his company, Keller Sales.

The lawsuit claims the men violated the Federal Hazardous Substances Act during October and December when they allegedly sold dangerous chemicals and fireworks parts to agents for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in Arizona and Washington.

The items were "intended to produce fireworks devices (that) have an audible affect _ namely, chemicals to make flash powder," the lawsuit said. The chemicals are banned hazardous substances, it said.

The government asked the U.S. District Court for Utah to enjoin the men from selling and transporting the materials because they posed a danger to public health.

It also asks that the Logan men be ordered to preserve all records and that government agents be allowed to inspect their businesses and records.

6 05-16-88 08:06 ped

(Complete writethru _ tightens throughout)

Picture

Zambelli buried amid farewell fireworks salute

NEW CASTLE, Pa. (UPI) _ Fireworks master Joseph Zambelli was buried Monday amid a thunderous pyrotechnic tribute to a man whose dangerous work dazzled six presidents and generations of July 4 revelers.

Zambelli, who headed the family fireworks business founded by his immigrant father in 1920, died at his western Pennsylvania home of a heart attack Thursday at the age of 80, his family said.

He was entombed Monday at St. Mary's Mausoleum in New Castle during a ceremony highlighted by a 20-minute farewell fireworks display.

Dogs barked and passers-by gazed skyward as Zambelli Internationale technicians set off a 21-gun fireworks salute, American flag parachute shells handrolled by the old master himself and colored smoke bombs.

Inside St. Mary's Mausoleum, 200 mourners listened to fireworks explode, said funeral director Edward DeCarbo.

"It was very impressive," DeCarbo said. "Nobody moved while they (fireworks technicians) did their thing."

Until his death, Zambelli served as director of operations at Zambelli Internationale, founded by his Italian immigrant father, Antonio. Joseph Zambelli was born in 1908 in New Castle and began work in the fireworks factory at age 13.

Zambelli put on pyrotechnic displays for six consecutive presidents, including President Reagan, and was the official provider of fireworks at the inaugurations of Reagan and President Carter. Zambelli also put on the annual July 4 display at the Washington Monument in the nation's capital for 25 years.

He was one of the last "cavalier handrollers," fireworks artists who actually hand-loaded gunpowder into explosive shells, an extremely dangerous job, his nephew, Dr. George Zambelli Jr., said.

In the late 1970s, the fireworks expert worked seven days a week for two years putting together the bicentennial July 4 Liberty Weekend celebration display in New York. It was a special effort for Zambelli, whose immigrant parents' first glimpse of America was the Statue of Liberty, his nephew said.

1 15 May 88 05:50 Sunday

Joseph-Zambelli, Grandfather Of Fireworks Dies

NEW CASTLE, Pa. (AP) _ Joseph Zambelli, the "Grandfather of Fireworks" whose talents shone during great national celebrations such as the Statue of Liberty's centennial, has died of a heart attack. He was 80.

Zambelli's family said he died Thursday at his home in New Castle, about 40 miles northwest of Pittsburgh.

The family's New Castle-based company claims to be the country's largest and oldest maker and exhibitor of fireworks, putting on more than 5,000 displays a year worldwide. Zambelli was vice president of production at Zambelli International America.

He put together displays for six U.S. presidents, including fireworks at the inaugurations of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

His fireworks also have been used in celebrations for the Statue of Liberty's centennial in 1986, a Washington, D.C., welcome home party for

American hostages held in Iran and a salute to Pope John Paul II.

Zambelli was known as a tireless worker, frequently working seven days a week well into his 70s, said his nephew, George Zambelli Jr. This year, he visited the factory two or three times a week, he said.

"Even when he wasn't working he would sit and try to come up with new ideas

for the business," the younger Zambelli said.

Zambelli began working full time in the factory, established by his father, at the age of 13, his nephew said.

His parents, Antonio and Maria Zambelli, immigrated to the United States from Naples, Italy, at the turn of the century.

Zambelli is survived by his wife, Mary; two sons, Anthony of New Castle and John of Pittsburgh; two brothers, George and Louis, both of New Castle; two sisters, Rita Iris of New Castle and Connie Tomelleo of Beaver Falls; and three grandchildren, Matthew, Erik and Abbey.

2 11-19-86 01:18 aes

Adult bookstores to stop selling some magazines

TOLEDO, Ohio (UPI) _ The owners of 11 adult bookstores have agreed to stop selling 126 allegedly obscene magazines pending a trial to determine if the stores constitute a public nuisance, officials said.

Lucas County Prosecutor Anthony Pizza said Tuesday part of the voluntary agreement calls for him to withdraw a request for a preliminary injunction to prohibit their sale.

The Toledo bookstores were the target of 11 suits filed in common pleas court last week that charges them with being a public nuisance.

Pizza said he still intends to press for a ruling that the materials are not protected by the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of free speech. If successful, he will ask the judge to close the stores, Pizza said.

John Czarnecki, a lawyer defending five of the stores in the suit, said the agreement allows the court to "make a calm and reasoned decision" in the case.

Czarnecki said the magazines' removal does not constitute an admission of guilt, nor does it prevent the owners from selling publications not identified in the suits.

In July investigators began purchasing materials it considered obscene from the stores. Between four and 19 publications are named in each suit.

Pizza said only hardcore, pornographic magazines are sold in the stores.

"These have explicit sexual activity," he said. "It does not affect plain nudity."

Pizza said he was confident a trial will result in an order to close the stores.

A similar action he sought against stores selling fireworks has been successful and upheld by the Ohio Supreme Court, Pizza said.

The stores will have 28 days from the filing of the suit last Wednesday to answer the complaints, Pizza said.

Assistant Prosecutor Steven Papadimos said investigators will monitor the stores to determine if they remain in compliance with the

agreement.

1 11-21-86 12:53 aes

Violation triggered explosion at fireworks facility

KING WILLIAM, Va. (UPI) _ A federal agency says it has put a French fireworks company on notice for violating a federal safety regulation that triggered a explosion at the firm's storage facility last July.

Officials with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said Thursday the agency cited Ruggieri USA for the explosion, triggered when an employee used a cigarette lighter to test a fuse within 50 feet of a trailer of fireworks.

Two officials with Ruggieri were summoned to Richmond last week for an "admonitory conference" about the July 30 violation, said Edward McKita, ATF area compliance chief.

Ruggieri also received a warning letter stating that "failure to conduct further operations in accordance with the regulations will be considered willfull and could result in administrative proceedings to revoke your license."

Ruggieri Technical Manager Alan Broca said Thursday that using a cigarette lighter so close to the trailer was "a mistake" and that the ATF was "absolutely right" to issue the warning letter. The company will not contest the warning, he said.

It was the second warning letter the ATF had sent to Ruggieri, which has a federal license to store fireworks at Chelsea Plantation in King William.

After an inspection trip last April, ATF officials cited the company for eight storage violations, McKita said. Those violations had been corrected by the time of the July blast, which leveled five fireworks storage trailers.

Ruggieri Managing Director Eric Tucker told the ATF that the explosions occurred while he was testing a wet fuse near one of the storage trailers. Tucker said he was about 20 feet from the trailer at the time; federal regulations prohibit open flame within 50 feet of any outdoor magazine.

When Tucket lit the fuse, it popped into an open box of fireworks, triggering a 20-minute chain reaction that destroyed three vehicles, two small structures and about \$200,000 worth of fireworks. No one was injured in the incident.

1 01-21-88 01:36 aes

Good morning editors. The UPI report for Massachusetts Thursday afternoon newspapers includes:

General News:

(FIREWORKS) Quincy, Mass. _ State and federal authorities seized nearly 40 tons of illegal fireworks and were transporting them into state custody when one of two trailers hauling the explosives flipped over. 400. Should stand.

(8grafinsert xxx majority's opinion;picksup15thgraf: attorney roy _
reaction from cities and calif. chamber of commerce president)

By PAMELA A. MacLEAN

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) _ A split California Supreme Court Thursday upheld the validity of the 1986 "deep pockets" initiative limiting personal injury damages for pain and suffering but refused to apply the law retroactively.

The court's refusal to apply the law to tens of thousands of suits now in the courts allows those injured people to escape the limiting effects on damages imposed by Proposition 51.

But in the long term, upholding the law's constitutionality is a victory for the insurance industry, businesses and municipalities, which are often included among those accused in personal injury lawsuits.

Essentially untouched are currently pending personal injury suits in state courts, including thousands of claims by asbestos victims who sued multiple employers dating back decades.

The law also will not apply to anyone injured prior to June 1986, but who filed suit the first year after Proposition 51 took effect.

Attorney Daniel Cathcart who represented the injured Los Angeles County man named in Thursday's decision said although his client's existing case is helped, "The court will rue the day they ever declared this constitutional."

The initiative limits noneconomic damages _ such as pain and suffering and emotional distress _ in the cases of multiple defendants accused of a single injury.

Under Proposition 51, businesses or governmental bodies that lose personal injury suits pay for pain and suffering or emotional distress only in direct proportion to their degree of fault.

Prior to the 1986 initiative, even a city or company only minimally at fault for an injury could be forced to pay the entire bill if others accused had no money. It resulted in lawsuits that named everyone potentially liable and targeted the wealthiest _ those with the deepest pockets.

The court was unanimous in its agreement that the ruling did not violate the due process guarantees of the state and federal constitutions.

But justices split 4-3 in holding the measure could not be applied retroactively.

Justice John Arguelles wrote, although the initiative made no mention of whether it was to be applied only to future cases, there was a "presumption of prospectivity."

In a sharply worded dissent, Justice Marcus Kaufman accused the majority of "bias" in deciding the issue.

"The majority's inflated concern with insurance `windfalls' is thus largely misguided. That concern does, however, expose the unstated bias underlying the majority's opinion."

Richard Helgeson, Los Angeles attorney for 39 cities supporting Proposition 51, said he was disappointed by the court's failure to apply the initiative retroactively.

Small cities were seeing liability insurance quadruple a few years ago and had a hard time even getting insurance, he said.

"Now cities will have to wait five years to see the benefit of the initiative," he said.

He estimated 20 percent of the 3,000 to 4,000 pending cases in Los Angeles County alone are suits covered by the deep pockets issue.

These are cases in which a motorist injured in a traffic accident sues the city for poor road design as well as the other driver because the driver at fault has no insurance.

But Kirk West, California Chamber of Commerce president, said the decision will improve the state's "litigation climate."

"The Supreme Court ruling today is a tremendous victory for the many people who banded together several years ago to begin reforming the state's liability laws through Proposition 51," said West, who chaired the steering committee for the campaign supporting Proposition 51.

"It means the state's litigation climate will be substantially improved within a year or two as we start seeing the effect of Proposition 51, together with the impact of the major liability reforms enacted last year in SB241 (an overhaul of the civil liability system), particularly the stronger standards for punitive damages. This ruling also augurs well for the future because it shows that the Supreme Court itself is not looking for new ways to expand civil liabilities, as previous courts have done," West said.

Attorney Roy Weatherup for one of the companies sued in the Los Angeles County case said he was "pleased that it is constitutional. In the long run it will save California insurance purchasers a great deal of money."

But he added he was "disappointed that it was not applied to all cases not yet tried."

Bryce Anderson of the California Trial Lawyers Association, which opposed the measure, contested Weatherup's suggestion it would save consumers money.

He said it would add to litigation costs, increase the number of defendant's named in lawsuits and increase insurance costs.

He added, the initiative was a confusing measure subject to multiple interpretations resulting in the need for numerous appeals to interpret each provision.

"It could take 20 years to unscramble its implications," he said.

In 1980, Gregory Evangelatos, 26, Sherman Oaks, was blinded and lost several fingers while he was putting together fireworks in his Los Angeles County home. He sued the seller, distributor and four manufacturers of the chemicals he used.

All but two were later dropped from the case, Van Waters & Rogers Inc., a subsidiary of Univar Corp. of Seattle and Student Science Store, Inc.

Evangelatos, now a champion skier in Special Olympics, has won the right to seek full damages for pain and suffering he endured, no matter what the degree of blame allegedly rests with Van Waters or Student Science, according to Cathcart.

Kaufman was joined by Justice David Eagleson and by special

(preliminary cause determined, damage estimate placed at \$700,000)
Fireworks started three-alarm fire on fraternity row

COLUMBIA, Mo. (UPI) _ A pre-dawn fire caused by fireworks Friday caused an estimated \$700,000 damage to a fraternity house at the University of Missouri and sent one firefighter to the hospital, authorities said.

Firefighters were called to the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house at 101 Burnam Avenue at 4:57 a.m., the Fire Department said.

The fire in the two-story brick building on fraternity row was brought under control shortly before 8 a.m. and firefighters left the scene about three hours later, said acting Fire Marshal Tony Barnes.

A firefighter who fell through an attic of the structure was taken to a hospital for treatment of a knee injury and released. Although 96 people live at the fraternity house, no other injuries were reported.

Investigators listed discarded fireworks as the preliminary cause of the fire. A broken water main on Burnam hampered firefighters because there was not sufficient water pressure to supply aerial equipment.

Fireworks ignited a hollow wood column in the rear of building, acting as a chimney by carrying flames into the attic area of the fraternity house, Barnes said. Wood columns supported a deck area of the building connected to roof of the structure, he said.

Barnes said fireworks that had been ignited earlier but which had not gone off may have smoldered and later ignited.

"A couple of residents did try to extinguish the fire and were unable to put it out," Barnes said, explaining that there were smoke alarms in the building and that several people were awake at the time the fire broke out.

A meeting was conducted Friday afternoon to make housing arrangements for the fraternity members, added Barnes, who said the fire burned the roof off about two-thirds of the structure. Water damage and smoke damage was also said to be extensive on the three levels.

Six fire engines, two ladder trucks, a battalion chief and a rescue squad were involved in battling the fire. There were 30 firefighters on duty, and others scheduled to work the next shift were called in early to help out.

The Boone County Fire Protection District manned city fire stations while the city's firefighters were involved in the fraternity house fire.

The city Fire Department planned to contact the city prosecutor about the case because there is a city ordinance banning use of fireworks without a permit. includes previous

1 04-20-88 12:13 ped

HARRISBURG, Pa. (UPI) _ Commonwealth Court has ruled the city of Pittsburgh cannot be sued by spectators injured during a 1984 fireworks display at Three Rivers Stadium.

The ruling Tuesday affirmed one by Allegheny County Common Pleas Court.

Nineteen spectators were injured when a skyrocket exploded during a display following a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game in August 1984. Among those sued were the Pirates, Zambelli International Fireworks and

the Pittsburgh Stadium Authority.

The defendants asked the city of Pittsburgh be included because it had absolute authority over permitting the fireworks display.

But the three-judge panel of the appellate court ruled the city is legally immune from suit, except in cases involving real property the city owns or controls. The panel said the accident had nothing to do with a defect in city property.

3 04-22-88 12:25 acd

Editors: The Wisconsin UPI report for Friday afternoon newspapers includes:

(FIREWORKS) Madison _ The Fourth District Court of Appeals upheld homicide charges against a former director of a Rock County fireworks plant for allegedly not taking corrective measures before an explosion killed an employee.

320. will stand.

1 22 Apr 88 07:25 Friday
Pink-Floyd-Noise, Pink Floyd Violates Noise Law

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) A loud rock concert by Pink Floyd violated a city noise ordinance, but officials said they couldn't find anybody band members to give citations when the music ended.

"During the grand finale with all the fireworks, they were leaving the stadium to beat the crowds," Art Seipel, Sacramento County environmental health specialist, said Thursday.

Noise from the event reached 111 decibels, about the same level as a jet airliner taking off 200 feet away, Seipel said.

The show's promoter, Bill Graham Presents, and Sacramento City College were given citations for the noise of the Wednesday night concert, which attracted 27,000 to the college's Hughes Stadium.

Noise violations are misdemeanors with maximum penalties of a \$500 fine and a year in jail.

2 05-21-87 11:40 pcd

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) _ Members of boards of directors of profit-making corporations could not be held liable for negligent acts by the company, under a bill passed by the Senate.

But officers of those corporations would not be immune from lawsuits. Lawmakers said Thursday these type of lawsuits generally involve those brought by shareholders against corporations.

Under the bill, which cleared the Assembly, directors, officers and volunteers of non-profit organizations also would be immune from lawsuits.

Exceptions include officials involved in intentional misconduct or criminal activity.

Sen. Lynn Adelman, D-New Berlin, opposed the bill, saying corporate officials should be held accountable. He was particularly annoyed by the

provision immunizing volunteers.

"A volunteer for the Posse Comitatus would be immune from negligence, or this PARR (Protect American Rights and Resources) group up north ... gun clubs, fireworks clubs," he said.

But supporters, including sponsor Sen. Jerome Van Sistine, D-Green Bay, said it has been difficult for companies to recruit directors and officers because of the fear of being held personally liable.

Gov. Tommy Thompson is expected to sign the bill.

1 05-18-87 07:44 pcd

(hx pro nx?)

Democrats stone-faced at GOP budget humor

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UPI) _ Senate Democrats were a little squeamish Monday when it came to backing several Republican budget bills.

They didn't find anything funny in appropriating \$1 to examine the migratory habits of a mythical bird (S838), allowing the secretary of state to study pest infestations (S840) or having the Agriculture Department determine how cows react to exploding fireworks.

The measures were so-called vehicle bills that do little now but can be amended later in the session to include negotiated budget agreements. Ordinarily vehicles are mundane, but Sen. Forest Etheredge, R-Aurora, said he wanted to make things more interesting this year.

"I thought they were a little more imaginative than some of the other vehicles we've had," Etheredge said. "Obviously some of the Democrats weren't too impressed.

Sen Richard Luft, D-Pekin, said he wouldn't have any trouble voting for the Republican bills if they weren't quite so silly. He especially objected to Etheredge's measure to study the migratory habits of the "Sidehill Dodger."

"That's one bill I'd hate to go home and have to justify," said Luft.

After the Democratic opposition, Etheredge said he'll amend his bills to make them dull, mundane and devoid of Sidehill dodgers, pests and exploding fireworks.

3 05-21-87 01:31 aed

House committee votes to change fireworks law, again

By GRETTEL WIKLE

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) _ The House State Government Committee has recommended a bill that would relax regulations pertaining to the sale and manufacture of fireworks.

The committee voted 10-4 Wednesday to recommend the bill, sponsored by Committee Chairman C.J. McLin Jr., D-Dayton. The measure eliminates the rule-making authority granted the state fire marshal in last year's bill and lessens some restrictions and penalties it set.

Fire officials said fireworks would pose more of a risk for injury

and that they would end up in the wrong hands if the legislation is passed, but some members of the committee said the 1986 bill is not effective because it goes too far.

"It simply is not true that use of fireworks will be legal under the bill," said Howard Allison, a licensed wholesaler of fireworks who spoke for the industry and the bill before the committee.

He said current law emasculates local control of fireworks, and he said the central control of the state fire marshal has not been effective.

"I feel the bill strengthens (control of fireworks) because it puts it back under local enforcement," Allison said.

The law slightly changes the arrangement established in last year's bill for selling Class C fireworks, or fireworks designed for use by individuals rather than by fireworks exhibitors. The law says anyone who purchases Class C fireworks must sign a form saying they will not set them off anywhere in Ohio.

The change involves the form itself. Under McLin's bill, fireworks sellers would not rely on the state to provide the forms, but have their own forms printed.

D. Robert Ireson, an assistant state fire marshal, said the provisions of the fireworks bill passed last year may have gone far, but they weren't given a chance to work.

"We feel that current law can still work and be effective and will lead to more effective regulation throughout the state," Ireson said. "The proposed bill is going to make it much more difficult to be consistent and have a regulatory program."

The new bill has provision that permits private exhibits, he said.

"That means your neighbors could have an exhibit and there's not a lot you could do about it," Ireson said.

Exhibitors who wanted to display more potent fireworks could do so with permission from a local fire official, while current law requires exhibitors to obtain permission from the state fire marshal, he said.

1 01-19-87 05:59 pcs

JACKSON, Wyo. (UPI) _ Teton County has seized the entire fireworks inventory of a Jackson-area retailer who is challenging the county's ban on sale and use of all fireworks.

Sheriff Roger Millward said deputies and County Fire Marshal Ken Sutton seized the fireworks from Wayne Gueke's store Friday and Gueke is scheduled to appear in court later this month on charges of illegally selling fireworks.

The charge carries a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine and six months in jail.

Millward said Gueke cooperated with the seizure and the fireworks will be held as evidence in the case.

The Wyoming Supreme Court ruled on Nov. 13, 1986 that the county does have the authority to ban fireworks and the law became effective immediately.

Gueke has continued selling fireworks in defiance of the law and on Dec. 31, 1986 he filed suit in state court against the county, the county attorney and three Supreme Court justices claiming they are

illegally interfering with his business.

He is seeking monetary damages and a ruling overturning the law.

Millward said authorities have waited over two months since the Supreme Court ruling to seize the fireworks because they wanted to make sure Gueke's rights to due process were protected.

1 01-21-87 02:44 pps

MEDFORD, Ore. (UPI) _ A proposal to ban fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Jackson County fell apart Wednesday when fire chiefs recommended against sending the proposed ordinance to a vote of the people.

Commissioners were urged by the Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Association to pass an ordinance banning the sale and use of fireworks in the county, but the commissioners said they wanted to put the measure on the ballot rather than pass an ordinance themselves.

William H. Anson, fire chief of Jackson County Fire District No. 3, said that putting the issue before the voters would guarantee its defeat.

"The fireworks lobby is a powerful, powerful lobby," he said.

"They'd be in here spending thousands and thousands of dollars to defeat the measure."

Commissioner Stewart McCollom said he was shocked that the Fire Chiefs Association, which had asked for the ban initially, was now backing down. Anson said, however, that the responsibility to pass the ordinance rested with the commissioners.

"We need the ordinance, but by God if (the commissioners) can't see that, then the hell with it," he said.

The cities of Medford and Ashland have ordinances that make it illegal to sell and use fireworks within the city limits.

2 08-21-86 01:15 apd

PHOENIX (UPI) _ Workers at a Coolidge munitions plant, where two workers were killed in an explosion in May, have asked the state to file criminal charges against the plant's managers.

A petition bearing 1,250 signatures was presented Wednesday to the state's Occupational Safety and Health Division by a relative of one of the victims and two former employees of Dela Tek Inc.

"We would like criminal charges brought against Ron McLaren and the management of Dela Tek for the May 19 explosion and fire that caused the deaths of Alfred Aguirre and Rudolfo Chavez," said Pat Brokeshoulder, one of the former employees.

McLaren was unavailable for comment.

Dela Tek, which is on the Gila River Indian Reservation, makes fireworks and munitions such as hand grenades for the Defense Department.

Elliot Gilmore, acting director of OSHA's Phoenix office, said the petitions would be passed on to the agency's regional office in San Francisco.

If further action is warranted, the case will be referred to the U.S. attorney's office, Gilmore said.

Another worker was critically injured in the explosion that killed Aguirre and Chavez.

Two other employees have died in accidents since the plant opened in 1969.

OSHA has charged the plant with 20 safety and health violations, including six willful violations, in the May 19 explosion and has recommended fines totaling \$32,700.

Dela Tek officials have until Friday to contest the fines or reach a settlement, Gilmore said. Otherwise, the fines must be paid.

3 08-22-86 01:25 apd

PHOENIX (UPI) _ A munitions plant has appealed citations for 20 health and safety violations and \$32,700 in fines resulting from an explosion that killed two workers.

Dela Tek Inc., a Coolidge manufacturer of fireworks and munitions, notified the state Occupational Safety and Health Division Thursday of its decision.

The appeal came one day after petitions bearing 1,250 signatures were filed asking the state to bring criminal charges in connection with the May 19 explosion.

Alfred Aguirre, 19, and Rudolfo Chavez, 36, were killed in the explosion. Another worker was critically injured.

The plant, which is on the Gila River Indian Reservation, was cited for six willful violations, 13 serious violations and one other violation.

A willful violation results when a company deliberately ignores OSHA regulations or knowingly allows a hazardous condition to exist. Serious violations stem from actions that could result in injury or death but are not willful. The other violation alleged the company failed to properly post an OSHA safety notice.

The company did not say on what grounds it was appealing. Company executives were not available for comment Thursday.

1 10-24-87 12:16 apd

Libertarians in the enemy camp: Government

UPI Spot News Weekender

(800)

Editors: This article also moved on the UPI national wire

By JEFF BERLINER

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UPI) _ On the Last Frontier, where people prize personal freedoms and say nasty things about government, America's longest serving elected Libertarian said 10 years is enough, but another Libertarian has become a political leader in Alaska's biggest city.

"I think you should be able to do anything you want as long as you don't hurt anybody else," said Stan Thompson, summarizing a philosophy that won him four elections for mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, a county the size of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts and

Rhode Island combined.

"In my 10 years as mayor," Thompson bragged, "We never passed an ordinance that affected the rights of the citizens, with one exception _ (banning) fireworks."

To the north, in Anchorage, a Libertarian's Libertarian became chairman of the municipal assembly. John Wood is so much the independent individualist that in one breath he boasts to being a Libertarian but not a card-carrying party member.

"I have yet to see government produce anything," Wood said last week after becoming chairman of the city's governing body. "It's like a leech."

Both men were elected in non-partisan races, but their views were well known.

Alaska does not have the biggest Libertarian organization _ California does, according to party people _ but the Last Frontier's colorful politics of independence speak loud and clear.

Alaska's Libertarians, after years of flexing their muscles by winning seats in the state Legislature and being instrumental in abolishing the state income tax, recently have been in disarray and become the state's fourth party _ behind the more strident Alaska Independence Party.

But Mike Holmes, a founder of the national party and editor of American Libertarian, said grassroots Libertarian support is strong in Alaska. Holmes, speaking from Houston, said 60 Libertarians are in local elected offices around the country, but none approach Thompson's 10 years.

"I think Alaskans are an independent people," Thompson said, explaining how someone considered a fringe party candidate by most Americans was elected again and again. He pointed to Wood's political rise in Anchorage and said, "I think Alaskans even in the city are independent. They don't care for the Big Brother attitude. They believe in freedom."

Thompson earned \$79,268 as boss for 123 employees and a \$55 million budget. The peninsula's 42,324 residents are equally split among small cities and wild countryside.

When World War II ended, Thompson, a geologist from Iowa, told the military his state of residence was Alaska _ though he had never set foot in the territory _ so he was discharged in Alaska, stayed, became a U.S. commissioner before statehood, homesteaded 160 acres and built his own log cabin.

In 1972, disenchanted with Republicans for embracing government regulations, Thompson ran for mayor on an anti-zoning plank. He won. Three years later, when he didn't campaign, he lost.

In 1980, he won the last year of an unfinished term, then won twice more. Last week, at 67, he called it quits and retired to his homestead, proud the borough still has no zoning.

While fighting taxes and trying to pay for \$153 million worth of new schools, while trying to be a Libertarian and run a government, one little policy was among Thompson's most controversial: He promised a day off when temperatures at borough offices in Soldotna hit 80 _ that occurred four times in 10 years.

In Anchorage, where John Wood was unopposed for a second three-year term last year, the 11-member assembly unanimously chose him chairman. Wood, 41, a lawyer from New Orleans, turned Libertarian after reading

"Atlas Shrugged," a novel by Ayn Rand, immensely popular in Alaska.

Wood said his colleagues made him chairman because of leadership abilities, not politics. He said as chairman he expected fewer opportunities to espouse his views and noted he is often in the minority on ideological issues.

For example, Wood dissented in a 9-2 vote recommending Alaska recriminalize marijuana. In 1975 the state Supreme Court ruled personal use of marijuana at home was protected by the privacy provision of Alaska's Constitution, something Wood and Libertarians applaud.

Wood can't stomach property taxes, a prime source of local revenue for this city of 234,000 people, and said, "Taxes are a form of legalized theft." He advocates user fees for city services, like ambulances, and supports do-it-yourself efforts, like a park developed in his neighborhood. Wood opposes eminent domain _ a government tool to condemn and obtain private property.

Like the Democrats and Republicans, the Libertarians are beginning to focus their attentions on next year's presidential race. A former Republican congressman from Texas, Ron Paul, and a former Libertarian state Legislator from Alaska, Andre Marrou, now of Nevada, are running for president and vice president.

But Libertarian founding father Holmes thinks the party's future may rest more with the country's Stan Thompsons and John Woods.

adv mon oct 26

4 04-19-87 09:38 pcd

Professor wants to halt fireworks legalization

IOWA CITY, Iowa (UPI) _ Fireworks should not be legalized in Iowa, but if they are made legal, the state should levy a tax on them to pay for the treatment of people injured or burned by their use, a University of Iowa professor said.

John Nesbitt, chairman of the UI's leisure studies department and a professor of therapeutic recreation, said during the weekend that Iowans' safety should not be threatened by the state's desire to make money from the sale of fireworks.

Nesbitt said he has been involved in the rehabilitation of disabled people and fears the injuries fireworks can cause. He said he hopes his formation of the "Committee Against Fireworks in Iowa" will draw attention to the fact that fireworks can be deadly.

The Iowa House has approved and the Senate is considering a bill to legalize the sale and use of federal Class "C" fireworks by Iowans 16 years and older during late June and early July of each year. The bill would cover Black Cats, Roman candles and ladyfingers.

Nesbitt said if the bill passes, he will hold legislators who supported it responsible for any injuries resulting from the use of fireworks. He said he will go so far as to term all fireworks-related injuries "Jay injuries" after Rep. Daniel Jay, D-Centerville, who wants the measure enacted.

Jay and other proponents of the bill have said it will aid economic development in southern Iowa because many Iowans near the Missouri state line drive south to purchase fireworks.

Proponents also have said fireworks rank relatively low on lists of injuries compiled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the state will take additional precautions, such as banning the sale of fireworks in tents. Also, any county or city still will have the authority to outlaw fireworks within its boundaries.

Nesbitt said he disagrees with those contentions because statistics he obtained from the commission indicate 10,265 accidents involving fireworks in the United States in 1985 were serious enough to require hospitalization.

(01X 3 03-24-88 08:55 pps

Neo-Nazi biker drug lab raided
By ETHAN RARICK

PORTLAND, Ore. (UPI) — Dozens of guns, enough chemicals to make 10 pounds of methamphetamine and gold and silver bars were seized Thursday in the raid of a neo-Nazi motorcycle gang's drug laboratory and storage lockers, police said.

Officers raided a house in Aloha, west of Portland, containing the dismantled lab, according to Sgt. Chuck Leutwyler of the Washington County Sheriff's Department. He said the house had been occupied by members of the Ghostriders motorcycle club and was decorated with swastikas, a picture of Adolf Hitler and satanic drawings.

Leutwyler said officers seized 12 guns, 1 1/2 pounds of methamphetamine, small amounts of marijuana and LSD, cash and gold and silver bars and coins at the house.

Authorities also raided five storage lockers rented by a man who lived at the house and seized three cases of rifles, a case of fireworks and enough chemicals to make 10 pounds of methamphetamine, Leutwyler said.

Michael Steven Mohler, 34, and his wife, Bobbie Karen Mohler, 36, were arrested at the house and charged with possession of a controlled substance, Leutwyler said.

The Mohlers were held in lieu of \$10,000 bail, he said.

He said the lockers were rented to Johnny Swanson, who was living at the house, but was not there at the time of the raid. Authorities did not know Swanson's whereabouts, Leutwyler said.

"This really is just the tip of the iceberg," Leutwyler said. "There will be more" arrests.

The methamphetamine lab is thought to have been run by a white-supremacist motorcycle gang called the Ghostriders, Leutwyler said. He said many motorcycle gangs operating in the Northwest have neo-Nazi ties.

"We're talking two big boxes of coins," Leutwyler said of the material seized at the house. "You're looking at thousands and thousands of dollars in value."

The weapons seized at the house included a machine gun and eight handguns, he said.

The cases of weapons at the storage lockers contained about 20 to 30 guns, Leutwyler said.

Leutwyler said 24 officers were involved in the raid.

(complete writethru _ fourth injury; bone fragments of suspect found; authorities say four buildings damaged; quotes from witnesses; suspect described as 'nice young man'; area of blast was site of another explosion in July)

RIALTO, Calif. (UPI) _ A man upset over an argument with his wife apparently slipped into a fireworks factory Friday and set off an explosion that injured at least four people, knocked out power to hundreds of homes and sent shock waves felt 30 miles away, authorities said.

The suspect, Eric W. Garcia, 24, a factory employee described by one manager as a "nice young man," was presumed dead from the blast, and bone fragments found at the site were believed to be his, city fire Capt. Randy Ammons said.

The 1:55 a.m. explosion at a concrete storage bunker of the Celebrity Fireworks Co. destroyed the factory, sparked fires in four nearby buildings and a county dump and shattered windows 5 miles away, said David Dowling, supervisor of the San Bernardino County emergency communications center.

The explosion also knocked down power lines, cutting off electricity to more than 1,400 homes and businesses, utility officials said.

Chunks of concrete from the 30-by-60-foot bunker, which was packed with about 200 pounds of gunpowder and fireworks, were found a quarter-mile away, Dowling said. The Rialto fireworks company is located in a nonresidential area on the edge of the desert city 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

"The area 200 to 300 yards around the bunker was total devastation," Dowling said. "I live 20 miles away and I thought it was an earthquake. It was a very loud, long explosion."

Mark Uhler, 36, who lives a quarter mile from the blast, said a piece of concrete crashed through his roof, just missing the bed of his 2-year-old daughter, Kimberly.

"I looked out and saw a glow, then a flash and a big explosion and all the windows came in," Uhler said. "A big mushroom of flame went up at least 500 feet in the air Right after that, a big chunk of concrete came down through the roof, hit a beam and shattered right behind my baby's bed."

Uhler's niece, Tonia Uhler, who lives next door, suffered leg bruises when the windows in her house blew in, he said.

Dowling said three other people, including a firefighter, suffered minor injuries.

Telephone operators reported residents from "everywhere in the Riverside-Corona area" called asking about the explosion. The area encompasses a 30-mile radius.

"People's windows were being broken, the blinds were coming out of the windows," said an operator who asked to remain anonymous.

Investigators believe that Garcia, who lived in the Rialto area, set off the explosion following a heated argument with his wife late Thursday night, Ammons said.

Garcia's wife, whose name was not released, called police shortly before the blast to say that she and her husband, who worked for the company about a year, had been having marital problems and that she feared for his safety, Ammons said.

"Our reports are that Garcia was spending the night in the (Celebrity) office, sleeping on a sleeping bag on the floor," Ammons said. "His vehicle was there. His wife had telephoned police this evening saying they were having marital problems and that she feared for his safety and mental welfare.

"Police were dispatched to the site and the explosion occurred just prior to their arrival. The wife was very worried."

Ten fire units from Rialto and surrounding areas had the blazes at the county dump and four buildings owned by Trojan Fireworks, located across the street from Celebrity, under control in about two hours, Dowling said.

Southern California Edison spokesman Bob Krauch said the explosion knocked out power to more than 1,400 homes and businesses in Rialto until about 3:30 a.m.

Investigators believed bone fragments found at the blast site were Garcia's, Ammons said.

"We surmise that the cupful of remains found are those of Mr. Garcia and that he initiated the explosion and blaze," Ammons said.

Jean Starr, area manager of Celebrity, said Garcia always seemed "happy."

"He was a nice young man who had a lot going for him (He) always seemed happy, smiling."

The company is located near several other fireworks factories and is in the same area where a blast in July at Astro Pyrotechnics killed one man.

4 09-21-87 03:32 pcd

By KEN FLYNN

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (UPI) _ A young activist who was burned to death while erecting a protest Independence Day fireworks display was eulogized Monday by officials of the conservative opposition party.

Businessman Gustavo Elizondo, unsuccessful candidate for mayor on the conservative National Action Party (PAN) ticket in last year's elections, said Pedro Herrera, 36, died "committed to the struggle for a true two-party democracy in Mexico."

Herrera was laid to rest in Juarez Sunday while hundreds of National Action Party members joined in a procession in which his remains were carried in a flower-bedecked coffin past PAN headquarters in downtown Juarez.

Party members eulogized his dedication to the principles of democracy.

Herrera was accidentally burned on Sept. 15, the eve of Mexico's Independence Day, while trying to erect a fireworks display. The separate PAN celebration of the holiday was staged as a protest to the official celebration in City Hall sponsored by the government-dominated Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) which has controlled Mexico since 1929.

Juarez General Hospital officials said Herrera died Saturday. A second victim of the same accident, Lorenzo Flores Martinez, 29, is listed in critical condition with burns over 90 percent of his body.

Two others hurt in the accident have been treated and released, medical authorities said.

Hundreds of National Action Party members took part in a funeral procession Sunday. Herrera's remains were carried to the front of National Action Party headquarters where Herrera was eulogized as a martyr to Mexico's fight for a true two-party democracy.

Following the procession at PAN headquarters Herrera's remains were taken to Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Juarez where the Rev. Gustavo Fong recalled that Herrera was "a young man wrapped up in clean ideals, which means he was going against the current in Mexico, taking a rough road."

Participating in the Mass as lay Scripture readers were Francisco Barrio, PAN candidate for governor in 1986, and his wife, Hortencia. Elizondo and his wife Blanca helped the priest distribute Holy Communion.

Elizondo, who is the PAN party chairman in Juarez, said the atmosphere at PAN headquarters today was "somber and quiet."

"We've lost a great PAN member, a hero in the struggle for democracy," he said. (Includes previous)

5 09-23-87 01:04 pcd

Five capital murder cases upheld

AUSTIN, Texas (UPI) _ Convictions in five capital murder cases, including a murder-for-hire case from Bexar County, were upheld Wednesday by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Three of the five cases were from Harris County and the fifth was tried in Victoria County, although the crime was committed in Webb County.

In the murder-for-hire case, the tribunal affirmed the conviction and life sentence of Jesus Martinez Gamez in connection with the death of Joe Banda on Jan. 2, 1979.

Gamez was accused of paying fireworks salesman Guadalupe Castro \$1,000 to kill Banda. Authorities said Banda was shot to death after Castro botched an attempt to kill him by rigging his car with dynamite.

Banda's car was destroyed in the explosion in front of his residence, but he was only slightly injured. However, Banda later was shot nine times at a San Antonio motel where he had moved after the explosion.

The high court dismissed grounds of errors filed by Gamez's lawyer, including a claim that former District Judge Roy Barerra Jr., should have been disqualified from hearing the case because he participated in the prosecution.

The court said Barerra's name was mistakenly stamped on a document in the Gamez case while Barrera served earlier as an assistant district attorney.

The judges also ruled that a man who was aware Castro had been hired to kill Banda could not be considered an accomplice witness. The court said it ruled on the basis that the witness could not have been

charged with murder in the case.

1 25 Sep 87 22:52 Friday
Fireworks-Blast, Worker Missing In Explosion

RIALTO, Calif. (AP) _ A thundering explosion heard 30 miles away leveled a bunker at a fireworks plant Friday after an employee reportedly troubled by marital problems called his wife and told her to look out her window, officials said.

The blast set three buildings ablaze and injured two people.

The fate of the employee, 24-year-old Eric W. Garcia, was not immediately known. Firefighters found bone fragments in the debris after the blast, said Fire Capt. Randy Ammons.

Officers alerted by Garcia's wife were 11/2 miles from the Celebrity Fireworks Co. plant when the bunker blew up at 1:55 a.m., Ammons said.

Police Chief Raymond E. Farmer said the wife reported that her husband had said something like, "Look out your window. You're going to see something you've never seen before."

"It resembled a miniature nuclear explosion," said Sgt. Ray Hemrikson, one of the officers on the way to plant at the time.

The employee had been living in a plant office, where a sleeping bag was found, authorities said. There was little other information on the couple's situation.

"She reported they were having marital difficulties and that she feared for his safety and mental condition," Ammons said.

The blast in the semi-rural area 55 miles east of Los Angeles was powerful enough to break windows up to four miles away, but the two injuries it caused were minor, he said. The blaze was brought under control in 45 minutes.

"It just rocked the building," said Dave Dowling, spokesman for the San Bernardino County emergency communications center, where the blast was felt. "It was incredible. We've had calls from as far as 30 miles that heard the explosion."

The blast caused power outages and set off burglar alarms across the city, Dowling said.

The explosion occurred in a mile-square area shared by at least three fireworks firms for storage and production of explosives, Dowling said. Last July, in the same area, a blast at Astro Pyrotechnics killed one man and set off a fiery chain reaction of other blasts.

Injured in Friday's explosion were an employee at nearby Trojan Fireworks, the parent company of Astro Pyrotechnics, and a woman who lived nearly a mile away, he said. The woman was hit by flying glass, Dowling said.

Both were treated and released, he said.

The blast ripped through the foot-thick dirt and cement walls of the storage bunker, and leveled an area at least 300 yards around, he said. "The bunker no longer exists. It was destroyed," he said.

A sheriff's bomb squad and fire investigators were at the site to determine what caused the explosion, Dowling said.

1 07-23-86 10:30 apd

SALEM, Ore. (UPI) _ The state fire marshal has the authority to decide what kinds of fireworks are legal in Oregon, the state court of appeals said Wednesday in a challenge filed by the Oregon Independence Day Association.

The association challenged Fire Marshal Olin Greene's decision to ban fireworks known as "crazy jacks" and "jumping jacks."

The association said the devices are the same as "ground spinners," which are legal in the state.

Greene banned the two devices after determining they could cause injuries and represent a fire hazard.

"The fire marshal has the authority to interpret what the legislature intended when it defined "ground spinners," the court said. "The rule promulgated by the fire marshall reflects the determination that crazy jacks and jumping jacks are not ground spinners as that term is defined in the Oregon statutes."

1 02-24-88 04:17 pes

CINCINNATI (UPI) _ United Parcel Service does not have to deliver fireworks unless the Interstate Commerce Commission orders it to do so, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

When the delivery service stopped handling fireworks Jan. 1 because of the hazards involved, fireworks makers filed a lawsuit and on Jan. 7 Cleveland federal judge Frank Battisti ordered UPS to resume carrying fireworks until the ICC made a final decision in the matter.

UPS appealed Battisti's decision and Wednesday the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out Battisti's order, meaning that UPS is no longer required to transport fireworks unless the ICC rules otherwise.

"(Battisti) had no jurisdiction" in the case, said the appellate court, noting that such matters should be decided only by the ICC.

Ultimately, the ICC is expected to rule in the matter, after a full review of the UPS policy and the fireworks makers' complaints.

In interim rulings last Dec. 28 and Dec. 31, ICC panels ruled in favor of UPS. Although a final ICC decision is still pending, the appellate court said a judge shouldn't get involved in the case in the interim.

"While we are sympathetic to the difficulties that the firworks manufacturers may face while awaiting a final decision of the ICC in this matter, we find little support for (Battisti's) action," said the appellate court.

The court said the Supreme Court "spoke definitively" on this subject in another case when it said Congress intended for the ICC to have sole and exclusive power to deal with such matters, not judges.

2 09-24-86 05:38 ped

Virginia News Briefs
By United Press International

Fireworks explosion triggers ban

KING WILLIAM, Va. (UPI) _ The King William County board of

supervisors, acting in the wake of a fireworks explosion that leveled five trailers, will ban fireworks from being stored in the county.

The July 30 explosion occurred at the Ruggieri USA Inc. fireworks storage facility at Chelsea Plantation. The county board amended its zoning ordinance Tuesday to include the ban on fireworks.

County officials said the amended ordinance will not affect Ruggieri because of a "grandfather" clause in the measure, but it prevents other fireworks from being stored in the county. It would prevent Ruggieri from expanding its operations after the ban is enacted in 30 days.

Commonwealth's Attorney Boyd Sears, who met with state officials about the Ruggieri explosion, said he feels the Ruggieri operation poses no safety threat to county residents. No one was injured in the explosion.

2 09-25-86 05:34 pcd

Kansas News Briefs

MERIDEN, Kan. (UPI) _ A teenager playing with fireworks had a portion of his right thumb and the top part of two fingers blown off when an M-80 blew up in his hands, Police Chief Bill Miller said Thursday.

Mike Vaught, 17, rural Meriden, was treated at Memorial Hospital in Topeka and released, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Vaught found the M-80 under the seat of his car while at a friend's house in Meriden, Miller said. He lit it in the backyard of the friend's home and it exploded in his hands around 5 p.m.

Although it is illegal to possess an M-80, described as a large firecracker, Miller said he would not pursue the case because Vaught had suffered enough.

"That type of thing, they learn their lesson pretty quick," the chief said.

4 06-24-87 04:13 apd

Appellate court studies judge's fireworks ruling

LOS ANGELES (UPI) _ An appellate court is studying whether a judge erred when he issued an order prohibiting the city from advertising that small fireworks are illegal and that 25 firecrackers have the same power as three sticks of dynamite.

The California 2nd District Court of Appeal Monday issued a stay of the order until it decides whether Superior Court Judge Ricardo Torres erred in the ruling, Assistant City Attorney Lewis Unger said Tuesday.

Torres issued a temporary restraining order Friday preventing Los Angeles and its Fire Department from making allegedly false statements that sparklers and all small fireworks are illegal. The restraining order also prevented the city from stating that 25 firecrackers have the explosive power of at least three sticks of dynamite.

Attorney James Mattiesich, who represents the California Pyrotechnics Association of Rialto, which sought the restraining order,

argued that while so-called "safe and sane" fireworks are outlawed within Los Angeles city limits, they are legal in several other parts of Southern California.

Mattiesich also argued that 25 firecrackers do not come near the explosive power of one stick of dynamite, let alone three.

The statements have appeared in advertisements in several magazines, including Time and Newsweek, as well as posters around the city.

Unger said that the advertisements are "in the public interest" and are aimed at preventing the burning and maiming of individuals handling fireworks.

A hearing on a permanent injunction against the city is scheduled in Torres' court July 6. Unger said he considered it unlikely that Torres would grant a permanent injunction before the appellate court decision.

5 06-25-87 10:48 ped

Fireworks law may be toughened

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) _ Buy those Roman Candles and firecrackers for the Fourth of July now because it may be your last chance.

Gov. Bob Martinez is reviewing a bill that would give the State Fire Marshal's Office under Insurance Commissioner Bill Gunter substantial authority to ban fireworks sales.

The proposal passed the 1987 session with little notice and will take effect July 15 if Martinez approves it as expected.

The sale of most fireworks already is supposed to be illegal in Florida, but Gunter says his department hasn't had the enforcement authority it needed.

Roman candles, exploding firecrackers and other fireworks are readily available in the Panhandle at convenience stores, roadside stands and from the back of pickup trucks. Sales are heavy now with the approaching Independence Day holiday weekend.

State Rep. Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee, and Sen. Pat Thomas, D-Quincy, won legislative approval of a bill for fireworks to be cleared by the state fire marshal before going on sale. The bill also makes it clear that most fireworks are not to be sold in Florida.

The bill would essentially prohibit the sale of any fireworks except sparklers. It defines a legal sparkler as a device containing up to 100 grams of burning material that can be safely held in one's hand or placed in the ground to shoot off sparks.

Thomas said he sponsored the measure because "they wanted to get some sort of uniformity of regulation" at the state level. The bill gives county sheriffs, as well as officials in the fire marshal's office, "a clear-cut definition" of what is legal and what is not.

Gene Naples, assistant director of the fire marshal's office, says the bill also requires registration of "everybody from the manufacturer to the seasonal retailer."

"We hope this will eliminate a lot of people who are driving up to the Carolinas and loading up with these illegal things to sell at the roadside," Naples told the Tallahassee Democrat.

Illegal sales would be punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and up

to a year in jail.

1 06-25-87 10:16 apd

Forest visitors reminded of fireworks ban

PORTLAND, Ore. (UPI) _ Forest Service officials, concerned about one of the driest fire seasons in recent years, are pleading with Northwest forest visitors to leave their Fourth of July fireworks at home.

Fireworks went on sale Tuesday in Oregon and go on sale in Washington next week, but Forest Service regulations don't allow them in the national forests _ even the so-called "safe and sane" type, such as sparklers, Ron DeHart, public affairs officer, said Wednesday.

DeHart said the warning is particularly important because the 24 million acres of national forests in Oregon and Washington are drier than normal. There has been less rainfall than usual, he said, and the snowpack has been less than desired.

This is the third year of a drought cycle in the Northwest, DeHart said.

"The Forest Service is very concerned," he said. "We see more danger than at any time since 1970, and all of the indicators are pointing in the wrong direction."

DeHart said 2,400 people are trained and available for fighting fires in the two states, including 55 smoke jumpers. The Forest Service has eight large aircraft equipped to spread fire retardant.

Fires this year have burned quite hot and have spread fast, he said.

"I fear we are in the calm before the storm," DeHart said. "All indications for fires are right, and we are on borrowed time as long as that sun shines."

2 06-22-87 09:40 pcd

Immediate Release

(Use only by INA subscribers)

By Harrison Weber

Iowa Newspaper Assn

DES MOINES (INA) - State Safety Commissioner Gene Shepard says there appears to be some confusion around the state regarding Iowa's fireworks laws.

"Only sparklers, caps and snakes are permitted for general use," he said.

Shepard said the confusion apparently stems from the debate in the legislature over a bill to legalize many types of fireworks. The bill was approved by the Iowa House, but not the Senate.

Possession of fireworks is not illegal in Iowa, which causes law enforcement officers a lot of problems.

"I would like to see the possession of fireworks made unlawful," said Shepard.

As it is, law enforcement officers must catch people in the act of setting off fireworks, offering them for sale, or actually selling

fireworks.

State Fire Marshal Wilbur Johnson is urging Iowans to be careful this 4th of July. Although sparklers, caps and snakes are permitted, Johnson said even these can be dangerous if improperly handled.

"Younger children should not be permitted to play with fireworks at all, and older children only with adult supervision," he said.

Johnson emphasized that fireworks should be used only in an area clear of buildings and flammable material. "A bucket of water should be available for hot sparkler wires. Fireworks should never be ignited in containers," he said.

Last year more than 10,000 fireworks related injuries were reported nationwide, and many thousands of others went unreported, according to the Iowa Department of Public Safety. A large percent of these injuries resulted in permanent disfigurement, including eye damage. HOLIDAY TRAFFIC

State Safety Commissioner Gene Shepard is concerned about a heavy traffic pattern during the July 4th weekend.

"We had 13 traffic fatalities on the Memorial Day weekend, one of the bloodiest holidays that we've seen. We don't want that repeated."

Since the 4th falls on a Saturday, Shepard said traffic may not be as heavy as in some past years when the 4th fell on a Friday or a Monday.

"However, a lot of businesses, as well as the state of Iowa, are giving their employees Friday off," said Shepard. "We may see traffic peak on Thursday night."

5 06-25-87 08:37 ped

ABERDEEN, Md. (UPI) _ Maryland State Police have charged two New York men and illegal firework counts after crack cocaine and Roman candles were found in their car stopped at an Interstate 95 rest stop.

Christopher Evans, 21, and David Allen, 27, both of Brooklyn, were arrested at the Maryland House rest stop near Aberdeen about 7:15 a.m. Thursday, state police Sgt. Joseph Ireton said.

The two men were charged with possession of nearly 2 pounds of "crack," Ireton said, along with possession of illegal fireworks.

Ireton said TFC Jeffrey Buehler pulled the suspects over when he noticed their car had no rear bumper or rear license plates.

Buehler spotted five, 2-foot-long Roman candles on the back floor of the car. Ireton said the trooper also saw a small plastic bag of marijuana wedged in the back seat.

A subsequent search of the car revealed nearly 500 vials of "crack" under the seat.

Fireworks are illegal in Maryland, except for sparklers bearing a gold seal label. Gold seal sparklers do not contain chlorates or perchlorates, and all sparklers are illegal in Baltimore city, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Authorities confiscated 400 to 500 pieces of illegal fireworks during the arrest.

2 06-25-87 06:14 ped

TINTON FALLS, N.J. (UPI) _ A potentially dangerous situation was averted when police acting on a tip discovered 14 tractor-trailers filled with illegal fireworks parked in a truck storage lot, police said Thursday.

3 06-26-87 02:06 ped

n.j.

Fireworks crackdown intensifies

By MARK PERKISS

NEW YORK (UPI) _ Investigations of several fireworks distribution rings were under way Friday and police said crackdowns on the sale of illegal pyrotechnics was a high priority "because July 4th is just around the corner."

3 06-24-87 08:56 ped

Police arrest two on firework charges

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (UPI) _ Police said Wednesday they confiscated \$4,000 worth of fireworks and charged a city store owner and his teenage son with dealing in illegal fireworks.

Police said they arrested Francis Indick, 53, when he drove up to his house at 1615 Spring St. as they were searching it Tuesday night.

Indick's son, Francis III, 19, was found after a 30-minute search around the MacArthur Stadium area that involved the city canine unit and county sheriff's department helicopter.

Indick and his son were charged with unlawfully dealing with fireworks, a misdemeanor, and were issued court appearance tickets.

Police found several hundred fireworks items in the Indicks' home and the F&R Variety Shop at 225 Wolf St. The fireworks were estimated to have a value of \$4,000, officials said.

2 06-26-87 04:02 ppd

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (UPI) _ Oregon State Police Friday were attempting to track down a batch of homemade fireworks that officers say could blow off a person's hand or foot or even kill.

The fireworks were being distributed free at a suburban shopping market and a neighborhood street Thursday by an unidentified man in his mid-20s, said Steve Riedy of Klamath County Fire District 1.

Riedy said the incident came to the attention of authorities when parents of two teenagers turned in the explosives.

The case was turned over to Oregon State Police investigators who tested the devices at Kinsley Field Friday. "Some of them were

equivalent to a stick of dynamite," Riedy said.

Sgt. John O'Neil, an investigator with the OSP bomb squad in Salem, said the largest device in the batch was six inches long and 1 1/2 inches in diameter. When it was detonated, he said, it left a 7-inch hole in a piece of 3/8-inch plywood and left a crater 15 inches across.

Riedy said the smaller of the two sizes of fireworks could blow off a hand or foot and the larger devices could kill anyone who was within 10 feet of them when they exploded.

"They don't have to be ignited to explode," Riedy said.

7 06-22-87 11:35 pcd

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) _ The attorney for a Beloit man charged with homicide by reckless conduct filed a motion Monday in the 4th District Appellate Court to dismiss the charge.

Larry Cornellier Sr., 46, was charged Monday in the 1983 explosion of a Milton fireworks factory that killed Dennis Whitt, 26, of Beloit and injured four others. The explosion occurred at Pyro Science Development Corp. which Cornellier allegedly owned.

A Rock County Circuit judge earlier this month denied a motion by Cornellier's attorney, John Olson, that contended the charge should be dismissed because the criminal complaint was insufficient.

The form of the motion filed Monday with the appeals court is unusual, but correct, an attorney in Olson's office said. Olson could not be reached for comment.

The appellate motion is filed as a writ of habeas corpus. A writ of habeas corpus is generally used by prisoners who want the state to show proof that they can be held in prison.

"In this case, we are saying Mr. Cornellier is being unjustly held within the jurisdiction of the court and we demand they show why. We feel they have not shown in the criminal complaint what reckless conduct Mr. Cornellier is guilty of," attorney Terry Race said.

Assistant Rock County District Attorney Nick Schweitzer said there is case law to support the writ of habeas corpus in this context.

The criminal complaint states the explosion at the Milton plant occurred a short time after Cornellier moved his fireworks operation out of Beloit when it was declared in violation of city ordinances.

Cornellier, in an interview Monday, said he did not own Pyro Science at the time of the explosion. He said he had sold his interest to Paul Merkle, a Rock County Public Defender.

Merkle and other officers of Pyro Science were offered immunity from prosecution in return for their testimony.

A preliminary hearing on the charge is set for October. Olson has said he expects the hearing to last two weeks.

9 06-24-87 02:29 pcd

x x x regulated industry."

He sold his fireworks display business to his son Larry Jr., who operates stands in the Wisconsin Dells area.

"All I do now is sell fireworks. It's really a great form of

family entertainment," Cornellier Sr. said. "You drive around on July Fourth and you see sometimes three, sometime four generations of a family sitting and setting off fireworks.

"They are safer than ever and people know that."

Police response to fireworks complaints ranges from a few hard-nosed efforts to more discretionary intervention, which is generally the procedure whenever an officer looks into any kind of citizen complaint.

"He (officer) may take the illegal fireworks, depending on how serious the violation," said Green Bay Police Capt. Jack Adriaenssens.

He said there have been some fireworks-related injuries over the years, but not as many since the state law was toughened.

In Madison, City Attorney Carolyn Hogg said even sparklers are prohibited in public parks and violators are subject to fines of not less than \$5 and not more than \$25.

The Madison ordinance on fireworks is tougher than the state law, which says sparklers are OK.

Wausau Police Chief Sylvester Gajewski said "we periodically check the shelves of vendors and if we find any illegal ones, we warn them. If the same fireworks are there a week later, we arrest them."

Police in Superior say they check stands frequently for illegal fireworks, but use discretion in handling complaints about legal fireworks. "We want to be sure there is adult supervision," a spokesman said.

The difference between illegal and legal fireworks is the difference between life or death, said Stephen Higgins, director of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Washington.

Higgins said fireworks injuries last year were estimated at more than 12,000 nationwide. Youngsters 5 to 14 suffered 41 percent of the injuries, he added.

He said he mainly is concerned about illegal bootleggers who seek quick profits and ignore safety. Since 1979, Higgins said, the agency has investigated explosions at 32 illegal production sites that killed 58, wounded 109 and caused \$26 billion in property damage.

A program the agency instituted in 1984 to intercept illegal fireworks before they reach the public has netted thousands of illegal devices, Higgins said.

In the Wales area of the Kettle Moraine, Bartolotta's licensed factory makes the big fireworks, the kind he uses in the more than 70 displays he puts on annually around the state. Bartolotta employs 11 people in several buildings on 43 acres. The workforce jumps to 300 during the Fourth to help with the displays, which take several hours to set up.

The factory makes fireworks Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings every week of the year for Bartolotta's use and for sale to other display operators.

"We've already started on the stuff for next year," he said.

Among the big displays this summer will be a show Thursday (June 25) by the Grucci family at Milwaukee's Summerfest. The family, involved in pyrotechnics for five generations, is making a 23-city fireworks tour sponsored by Wisk laundry detergent.

Other large shows include the First Wisconsin National Bank display July 3 as well as fireworks during Festa Italiana and Maritime Days, all on the Milwaukee lakefront.

There are also Fourth of July fireworks displays around the state, including shows in Oshkosh and Sheboygan.

8 06-24-87 02:17 pcd

Fireworks pop, soar and glow despite restrictions

Wisconsin Issues

(1,000-Picture)

Release at will

By RAY DOHERTY

MILWAUKEE (UPI) _ Wisconsin is tough on the use of fireworks, but you can still hear and see ladyfingers pop, skyrockets soar and Roman candles glow in neighborhoods across the state.

Most of the fireworks are in legal city or village displays, but a nagging number are set off by citizens who purchased them from illegal peddlers.

"I think they're (law enforcement) still pretty lax," said Sam Bartolotta, Wisconsin's chief fireworks display artist who is the state's only licensed fireworks producer.

But he concedes, "you'd need a police force the size of an army to enforce the rules" against illegal fireworks, the kind that carry enough powder to maim or blind.

So a handful of illegal vendors sprout up like weeds every Fourth to hawk their hazardous wares until they are shut down.

It appears, however, that increased vigilance, a stricter state law and vigorous advertising urging fireworks safety have held down serious injuries.

The law was changed in 1974 to provide a uniform statewide ordinance and give local governments latitude to make the law more strict. The biggest problem in recent years was an explosion in 1983 that killed one man working in an unlicensed fireworks factory near Milton. That case is in the courts. Big, booming fireworks are banned from use by individuals and only can be set off under qualified supervision after a government permit has been obtained.

These are aerial bombs and sky rockets _ any device with a charge of more than 16.2 milligrams of powder.

Legal under state law, but with the user subject to arrest if a disturbance is created, are play snakes, toy caps with more than one-quarter grain of explosive mixture, sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length and one-quarter inch in diameter, whistles that don't explode, and some cylindrical and cone fountains that sit on the ground and emit only smoke or sparks.

Of special concern is the mailing by outstate companies of fireworks catalogs to residents. A dozen companies were asked earlier this month by the state attorney general's office to sign statements they are complying with the law.

Officials during the fireworks season frequently check vendors to see that their tables are far apart and that no illegal devices are being sold.

Larry Cornellier Sr. of Beloit, one of the largest of the state's six major fireworks wholesalers, operates three warehouses around the state _ in Beloit, Hudson and Poynette.

He has been in the news because of that explosion near Milton. He maintains he sold his interest in Pyro Science Development Corp. two weeks before the explosion and should not have been named in a complaint charging him with homicide by reckless conduct in the death of Dennis Whitt, 26, Beloit.

"In the next couple of weeks there are going to be a rash of grain elevator explosions. There always is. Does everybody stop eating bread then? No. Did people stop buying fireworks after the explosion? No," Cornellier said.

He profiles the average fireworks buyer as "around 30 years old and he buys between \$5 and \$9 worth of fireworks depending on what his kids can weasel out of him at the time he's buying.

"Fireworks are safer than ever because of the government regulations enacted in 1973 that permit only a certain amount of gunpowder in an item," Cornellier said. "The bottoms have to be flat, they have to be packaged properly now.

"It really is a regulated industry."
more more

2 22 Jun 87 09:13 Monday
Grucci-Fireworks, Fireworks Family Coming Back

BROOKHAVEN, N.Y. (AP) _ The Grucci fireworks family, nearly ruined in 1983

by a factory explosion that killed its master craftsman, has been quietly rebuilding while its pyrotechnic magic continues to dazzle the public.

"It's amazed me, the resiliency of the family unit, to come back from what was a death blow," said Phil Butler, son-in-law of patriarch and company founder Felix Grucci Sr.

"Nobody would have criticized us for quitting," Butler said in a recent interview. "It's a dark page in our history, but it's a page we overcame. We conquered it, rising from our own ashes."

Killed in the Nov. 26, 1983, blast that leveled the family's Bellport factory and damaged about 100 houses were Grucci's son, James Grucci, 42,

and his 19-year-old cousin, Donna Gruber, who worked at the plant.

The accident claimed most of the family's worth, and legal fees of up to \$450,000 have strapped the company, Butler said. "A lot of people think we're wealthy. We're not."

The elder Grucci's grandfather started making fireworks in Sicily in the 1850s. In 1929, the 83-year-old Felix Grucci Sr. set up shop in Bellport, then a remote part of Long Island. He still works every day.

After the explosion came the dream of a bigger and better factory. On May 1, Grucci moved the operation to the 90-acre Brookhaven site, flanked by a fire department training area and a site zoned to be an ashfill.

"The most we'll have here is a very violent fire," Butler said. "Now we own the buffer zones. If houses were built 100 feet from our fence, we still would not cause any damage."

A chain-link fence surrounds the \$1 million site, he said. Signs warn visitors of danger, and trailers holding fireworks are separated by tall mounds of dirt to prevent one burning trailer from setting off another during a fire.

"Fireworks are beautiful but inherently dangerous," Butler said. "You have to deal with it (fire potential) on the level that it's not if, it's when. Then you're prepared for it."

Explosions at fireworks factories nationwide have killed about 50 people in this decade.

The factory will not be built for about five years and the offices consist of trailers joined together, but the Gruccis say they now have a home.

The family's success was bolstered in 1979 when it became the first U.S. company to win an international fireworks competition in Monte Carlo.

The Gruccis helped plan the fireworks extravaganzas at the Statue of Liberty centennial celebration, the Brooklyn Bridge centennial in 1983 and President Reagan's inaugurations in 1980 and 1984.

This year, Grucci will produce hundreds of shows across the country, including about 185 during the Independence Day weekend, Butler said.

1 12-24-86 01:46 pps

MEDFORD, Ore. (UPI) _ Winter was less than a week old Wednesday when the Jackson County commissioners began worrying about July _ specifically, about fireworks.

A proposal to ban the sale and use of fireworks throughout the county will be the subject of a public hearing Jan. 7. But commissioners said the best way to handle what is sure to be a spark-filled issue may be to put it to a countywide vote, rather than enact an ordinance themselves.

The proposed ordinance, patterned after Medford's fireworks ban, would make it illegal to sell, possess or use such items as sky rockets, Roman candles and sparklers. Caps used in toy guns would remain legal.

Although Wednesday's meeting was supposed to be limited to setting a hearing date, two opponents were allowed to speak.

Fireworks sellers George and Isabel Plane said the law would be impossible to enforce and would go against an American tradition.

3 03-24-87 01:03 aes

(ohio)

Fireworks factory owner charged in fatal 1983 blast

By KATHLEEN OSTRANDER

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ The owner of a Rock County fireworks factory has been charged with homicide by reckless conduct in a 1983 explosion that killed one man and injured four others.

Larry Cornellier Sr., 46, who lists addresses in Beloit and South Beloit, Ill., was ordered Monday to make an initial appearance on the charge Thursday. Rock County Circuit Court Judge John Lussow signed the criminal complaint and issued a summons for Cornellier to appear in court.

Cornellier owns Pyro Science Development Corp., a company that owned and operated a fireworks factory near Milton. A March 1983 explosion at the illegal factory killed Dennis Whitt, 25, of Beloit, and

injured Larry and Angela Cornellier, Kathleen Ackley and Kristine Kenny.

The complaint said Cornellier moved equipment and fireworks material from a Beloit site to the Milton factory after he was charged with violations of the city safety code for keeping the material in Beloit.

Less than a month later, sparks from an exhaust fan ignited the material and the Milton site exploded, the complaint said.

The company, originally charged under the state's criminal corporate liability law, will not be charged, Assistant Rock County District Attorney Nicholas Schweitzer, said Monday.

Statements from a deposition attributed to Kristine Kenny, indicated the explosive materials were initially moved to the Milton site for storage.

Richard Sheard, a former company officer from Columbus, Ohio, told authorities that Cornellier had decided to begin using the Milton facility to assemble fireworks, the complaint said.

Another corporation officer, Allyn Colantino of Chicago, said when he visited the factory in December 1982, it was "a disaster, bags of chemicals left open, everything was a mess." This was prior to 500 pounds of pyrotechnic material being moved to the factory after the Beloit charges, authorities said.

Cornellier was fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency for violations at the illegal factory after the explosion.

9 03-27-87 02:28 pcs

(Ill.) Lake Geneva man goes full-time special effects hobby (750)

Adv for release weekend of March 28,29

By KATHLEENOSTRANDER

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. (UPI)

_ Stirring up a blizzard in July, bathing a pig in an endless profusion of bubbles and making inanimate objects mysteriously explode are only a few of the magic tricks Dieter Sturm performs for a living.

Sturm, currently in charge of public relations at TSR Inc., will leave the company at the end of March to devote full attention to his special effects company.

Special Effects International was Sturm's brainchild, born while he worked on special effects for his high school play and doing promotional work for a Milwaukee radio station.

Now his magic can be seen in movies and on television.

"We've done special effects for television for the past three years. I fell in love with the film medium. It's more fun than live because you can deal better with illusion," said Sturm.

His wife is his business partner and the rest of his company consists of a crew of professionals he recruits for various assignments.

When Mother Nature cannot provide the background, Sturm steps in.

"Last week we were making snow in Kankakee for "P.T.A," the new Steve Martin-John Candy movie. Actually, this winter has been great for snow assignments. In the spring, we'll get a lot of rain calls," he said.

By far his most ambitious assignment was a series of snow scenes for the movie, "Light of Day," starring Joan Jett and Michael J. Fox movie.

"We had to dress five locations in snow. One was a city block parking lot. You have to use sawhorses draped with burlap and covered with an ice material to make the drifts and then you have to spray snow on everything, making sure you even drape a little on the signs," Sturm said.

Through past assignments, Sturm said he has learned there are several ways to make snow, make a radio explode, or keep a porcine tubber happy.

"The pig in the bubble bath was an assignment where we had to make sure the bubbles stayed real airy and in the bathtub," he said. "We had to get a special tub and run air hoses in and use a special formula bubble mix. The pig was really rowdy at first, but once it got into the bubbles, it settled right down."

Much of his magic is created in Chicago and Milwaukee for television and film production companies.

"We made the bed burn in a recent 'Jack and Mike' (televi-sion) show and we'll be blowing up Al Capone's vault, again, for a beer commercial spoof on the real thing," he said.

Sturm's face lights up as he describes how he set the scene for the explosion of the vault in Chicago's old Lexington Hotel, a vault that was supposed to hold Capone's booty, or even his body. The commercial will be a spoof on news personality Geraldo Rivera's show last year that found the vault was empty.

"See," he says, waving his hands in the air, "We'll put these styrofoam blocks up with Fuller's Earth (a fine dust material) on top so we'll get the dust like an explosion. Of course, we can't use explosives in the hotel, so we'll have to use air cannons."

Safety is the No. 1 priority and a real concern when special effects artists prepare to make something blow up in someone's face, as in a commercial series he did for a radio station.

The syndicated commercial series, called "The Destroyer," featured a series of vignettes in which hot rock tunes caused radios to explode.

"I'm licensed by the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Bureau and they are really strict about paperwork and what you are doing with materials. No one has ever been hurt in one of our special effects," Sturm said.

Sturm said he plans to tap into a demand for special effects equipment.

"We'll be able to go into equipment rental now. You just can't go into the hardware store and order a wind machine, you've got to buy one or rent one. We've got foggers, rain machines, snow making machines and we've even got steam pellets," he said.

Sturm said the pellets are used, for example, when taping a commercial about hot baked potatoes. The potato is ice cold, but the smoking steam pellets lead the viewer to think otherwise.

Despite long hours and travel back and forth to Chicago, Sturm prefers Lake Geneva to Hollywood.

"We've had people try to get us to move to California, but we fill a niche here. We have plans of setting up a production studio in the future," he said.

Sturm's hobby-turned-profession also made for unusual entertainment at an important event in his life.

"I got married last summer and my friends got together and did a big laser and fireworks show outside our house where we had the reception," he said.

7 03-26-87 10:43 pcs

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ An attorney for the owner of a fireworks factory charged with one count of homicide by reckless conduct Thursday filed a motion to dismiss the charge in Rock County Circuit Court.

Larry Cornellier Sr., 45, of Beloit, is president of Pyro Science Development Corp., a company that was supposedly storing fireworks in a shed in Milton, but was actually assembling fireworks.

The shed exploded in March 1983, killing Dennis Whitt, 26, of Beloit, and injuring four others, including two of Cornellier's children.

Authorities say circuit court charges were delayed because various federal agencies were investigating the blast and some of the reports were not available until late last year.

Cornellier's attorney moved to dismiss the charge for insufficient cause.

Cornellier and several company officers were charged with second-degree murder last year, but a Rock County judge dismissed the charge against Cornellier due to insufficient cause, and the district attorney's office withdrew the other charges.

All of the officers charged last year have given depositions to the district attorney's office and authorities said they may testify at the trial.

Cornellier was freed without bond pending the April 2 hearing on the motion to dismiss.

1 05-26-88 11:50 apd

Fireworks dealer warned to limit buyers

By MARC McFARLAND

PORTLAND, Ore. (UPI) _ A southwest Washington fireworks dealer was presented a list Thursday of the only licensed wholesalers authorized to sell the pyrotechnic devices in Oregon in an effort to stem the flow of illegal fireworks into the state.

Northwest Fireworks Inc., which owns Black Jack Fireworks of Vancouver, Wash., also was informed of revisions in Washington state fireworks laws the company must comply with, the Oregon fire marshal's office said.

"What the states of Oregon and Washington are doing in a joint effort is making sure everyone is aware of the law," said Tari Glocar-Floyd, license and permit manager for the Oregon fire marshal's office. "That way, they will be able to abide with those laws."

In addition to presenting the list of authorized Oregon wholesalers to Northwest Fireworks, the fire marshal's office told the company many fireworks listed in its advertisements are illegal in Oregon.

An ad Black Jack sent the Oregon fire marshal's office offers reduced prices for No. 100 Floral Mortar Shells, Air Travel Bottle Rockets, firecrackers, Bees, Butterflies, Quilting Lights, 10 Ball Roman Candles, Moon Travel Whistling Bottle Rockets and Festival Balls _ all of which are illegal in Oregon, Glocar-Floyd said.

"We received some ads in Oregon indicating these items are available for sale in Washington that are illegal for most Oregon residents to possess," she said. "We want to ensure that Northwest Fireworks is aware who it can sell to in Oregon and what it can sell."

The fire marshal's office also is investigating whether Jumping Jacks listed in the ad are illegal in Oregon.

"Everything in the ad, with the possible exception of Jumping Jacks, are illegal in Oregon," Glocar-Floyd said. "We're not sure if these Jumping Jacks are illegal in Oregon."

"There's a specific criteria that has to be met for fireworks to be legal in this state," she said. "We have to take a sampling of the Jumping Jacks to know for sure. The others fly in the air or explode, which automatically make them illegal in Oregon."

A woman who answered the phone at Northwest Fireworks said company officials were not available for comment.

Oregon law defines illegal fireworks as any that travel higher than 6 inches into the air or 6 feet in diameter, Glocar-Floyd said.

An arrest citation will be issued to anyone illegally bringing fireworks into Oregon, while any vehicle used to transport illegal fireworks within the city of Portland may be confiscated and court action taken to forfeit the vehicle to the city, the fire marshal's office said.

In addition, all illegal fireworks that are confiscated will be destroyed.

Licensed Oregon wholesale fireworks dealers are required to present a permit issued by the fire marshal's office to purchase fireworks that will be brought into Oregon, Glocar-Floyd said.

She said illegal fireworks cause fire and other damage in the state every year, but there is no way to estimate how many illegal pyrotechnic devices are brought into Oregon.

"It's hard to get a dollar amount because they're coming in illegally and being sold illegally, and anyone selling fireworks

illegally is not advertising it," she said.

"We get complaints about people selling fireworks out of the trunks of cars, but by the time we get there the person is gone," Glocar-Floyd said. "We've also gotten reports of people selling them out of their homes. Almost any way someone can conceive of to sell something illegally can be used."

Portland police spokesman Henry Groepper said some sellers of illegal fireworks last year brought truckloads of the devices across the Columbia River to a park in north Portland, where they were unloaded for sale to others.

The wholesale fireworks dealers authorized to bring the devices into Oregon were identified by the state fire marshal's office as Pyrodyne Corp. of Clackamas, Western Fireworks Display and Western Commercial Fireworks of Canby, Oregon Sky Jewelers Assoc. of Blachly, Edgar H. Lundberg of Eugene, Best Sales & Assoc. of Portland, Phil Riley of Beaverton, Humdinger Fireworks of Gig Harbor, Wash., Red Devil Fireworks of Spokane, Wash., R&S Marketing Service of Bozeman, Mont., and O.K. Fireworks Corp. of Tulsa, Okla.

14 05-27-88 02:07 aed

Fireworks bill clears state Senate

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI) _ Legislation easing up on the state's two-year old fireworks regulations has cleared the Ohio Senate and may be enacted next week.

The bill, which among other things permits the retail sale of sparklers to young people under 18, was passed Thursday on a 29-3 vote. It has an emergency clause which will make it effective in time for this year's Fourth of July celebrations.

The House, which passed virtually the same bill, will have to concur in the emergency status, perhaps next week. The bill would then go to Gov. Richard Celeste for signature.

Originally, the bill sponsored by Rep. C.J. McLin, D-Dayton, took control of fireworks away from the state fire marshal and virtually gutted the two-year old law sponsored by state Sen. Gary Suhadolnik, R-Parma Heights.

But that version was defeated in the House a year ago. McLin came back with a milder version which passed in March with the approval of state Fire Marshal William Hennosy.

The bill:

_Allows manufacturers to sell fireworks other than those they manufacture.

_Permits the transfer of a fireworks manufacturing company by inheritance, or with the fire marshal's approval.

_Reduces the penalty for failure of licensed establishments to adhere to the fireworks law. The penalty will now be a third degree felony, which carries a jail term of one to 10 years and a maximum \$5,000 fine.

_Forgives the harsher penalty for anyone already convicted and serving a term under the 1986 law, and requires that the new penalty be imposed on anyone charged with a violation under that law.

The bill was sent to Suhadolnik's committee last week, but he declined to act on it, saying he was tired of the controversy he generated over a solid waste disposal bill.

McLin's bill was sent instead to the Senate Agriculture, Commerce and Labor Committee, where the chairman, Sen. Ben Gaeth, R-Defiance, moved it out Wednesday.

Sen. Roy Ray, R-Akron, one of the three opponents, said he voted against the bill because he is opposed to fireworks. "This bill permits the sale of sparklers to small children, which does nothing but cause injury," he said.

2 05-24-88 06:22 apd

(1grafcorrection: xxx Sandy; picksup5th graf: Jolly said _ fixing fireworks)

GRESHAM, Ore. (UPI) _ Investigators for two east Multnomah County fire departments reported the seizure of illegal fireworks they estimate would have sold for \$50,000.

Gresham and Sandy fire officials said Monday they seized the Roman candles, firecrackers, aerial displays and other fireworks last Thursday from a semi-truck trailer on Southeast Ten Eyck Road northeast of Sandy.

Citations alleging possession of illegal fireworks were given to Douglas Cecil Hall, 39, Salem, and Jeffrey William Flack, 27, Sandy.

It was the first big seizure of fireworks this season, said Gresham fire spokesman Bill Jolly. He would not say what led investigators to the fireworks or why announcement of the seizure was delayed.

Jolly said the fireworks were class B and C explosives, mostly made in China, Takiwan and elsewhere overseas. Some bore markings from the Ozark Mountains of Missouri.

Fire investigators spent most of Monday taking stock of the fireworks, which almost filled a storage room that could hold 1,920 cubic feet.

1 11-27-87 02:07 pes

"Yuppies Invade My House at Dinner Time"

UPI New Jersey NewsFeature

(750)

release at will

Hoboken: gentrification friction

By FRANCES ANN BURNS

HOBOKEN, N.J. (UPI) _ Take some high-income refugees from the astronomical rents in Manhattan and some refugees from low incomes in Puerto Rico.

Put them all in one of the most densely populated square miles in the United States together with the descendents of Italian, Irish and German immigrants.

What do you have?

Hoboken.

The Mile-Square City has long been known as the birthplace of Frank

Sinatra, the point of embarkation for American troops in World War I and the place where Marlon Brando's "On The Waterfront" was filmed.

It is now one of the hottest pieces of real estate in the New York area and a vigorously contested battleground in the continuing war over gentrification.

The city still has its great traditional Italian restaurants and waterfront bars, but, with the influx of Manhattanites, it now also has an outlet for Godiva, the pricey addiction of "yuppie" chocoholics.

Cheap rental apartment buildings are turning into high-priced condominiums. There are higher tax assessments for those lucky enough to own their buildings and women wearing business suits and Reeboks prowl the streets.

The frictions caused by the mixture exploded in the columns of a weekly newspaper last year when a newcomer, believed to be a non-ethnic yuppie, wrote a letter complaining about the fireworks traditionally set off in the city for the ethnic feast of the Madonna dei Martiri.

The letter, signed with the pen name "Shaken up in Hoboken," set off a tidal wave of correspondence, both pro- and anti-yuppie, pro- and anti-feast.

"If you can't put up with one day of Beautiful Noise, maybe you should pack up your briefcase and go back where you came from, yuppie," wrote Mrs. R. Porta, "a Hoboken native."

That was one of the more moderate letters.

Now the Hoboken Reporter has republished the letters in book form, in a sort of case study of the problems and tensions that gentrification brings on. The correspondence is interwoven with a running commentary on Hoboken's history, economy and politics.

"Yuppies Invade My House At Dinner Time," subtitled "A Tale of Brunch, Bombs and Gentrification," takes its title from the pathetic tale of someone who signed his name "Once Lived on a Tree-lined Street."

"Once" complained about real estate agents showing his rental apartment to potential condo buyers while he was eating.

"Again, I have to see sneakers and dresses and men with shoulder bags and cameras, only in my house at my special time," complained "Once," who described himself as a 35-year resident of Hoboken.

His letter was a sample of the bitterness felt by many B&B's or B&R's (short for "born and bred" or "born and raised").

They're the ones who stayed on during the dark days when the Hoboken docks shut down, factories pulled out and a 1971 survey showed that more than half of the city's population wanted to leave.

Today, they find that the city's renaissance and newfound prosperity also has its downside.

B&Rs accused yuppies of taking all the parking spaces, "holding court" in supermarket checkout lines, sloppy housekeeping and failing to hang curtains.

Yuppies wrote back to complain that their B&R neighbors were prejudiced, hung sneakers from telephone lines and were sore because they had failed to cash in on the real estate boom.

"We didn't know that the landlords in Hoboken were so desperate for money that they would do anything to get you people out of the city," wrote Palmer Monroe, identifying himself as a yuppie. "We just

want a place to live just like you."

John Derevlany, an immigrant from Queens, edited the book with his boss, Reporter publisher Joe Barry. He believes the book says "something about gentrification in cities across America."

"We wanted to put together a work that would chronicle this change that's going on, with what happens with an older blue-collar city that's suddenly inundated by the affluent," Derevlany said.

So far, sales in Hoboken have been good, he said, although many people complain that the book reopens wounds that had begun to heal.

"We haven't gotten any letters about the book yet," Derevlany added, "but we expect to."

"Yuppies Invade My House at Dinner Time" is published by Big River Publishing, of Hoboken, N.J. It is 181 pages and sells for \$5.95.

1 12-30-87 06:25 acs

SPENCER, Ind. (UPI) _ Owen County authorities said a mysterious fireball last week turned out to be fireworks.

Authorities at first feared an airplane had crashed, but a search south of Spencer Christmas Eve and Christmas Day failed to uncover any wreckage.

Sheriff Harley Melton said searchers have found remnants of some type of fireworks.

3 01 Jan 88 10:44 Friday
Philippines, Manila New Years Fete Kills 11

MANILA, Philippines (AP) _ At least 11 people were killed and 1,225 others injured as Manilans welcomed the new year with a frenzy of firecracker explosions, drinking sprees and drunken brawls, police and hospital authorities said Friday.

The toll was slightly less than last year when 13 people were killed and 1,400 injured, mostly by firecrackers.

Meanwhile, the government-run Philippine News Agency released military figures Friday showing 3,598 people were killed in fighting between communist rebels and government forces throughout the country last year.

The figure, which included 1,646 rebels, 1,065 soldiers and 893 civilians, brought to 17,902 the number of people killed in the insurgency during the past five years, the agency said. The insurgency is now in its 20th year.

In Cebu City, 360 miles (576 kilometers) southeast of Manila, police shot dead four of 18 inmates of the city jail who escaped at dawn Friday. Police recaptured one of the prisoners but the other 13 got away, Philippine Constabulary Sgt. Napoleon Comar said in a telephone interview.

He said officials were investigating how the prisoners managed to bore a hole through a concrete wall without being detected earlier.

By late Friday, 27 hospitals in the 13 towns and four cities that make up the Manila area had reported treating 1,225 people, mostly for injuries caused by firecrackers.

At least four people were killed by stray bullets fired by unidentified people to welcome the new year and six others died of stab wounds inflicted in drunken brawls, officials said. The 11th fatality died of injuries in one of several car collisions, which injured more than 30 others.

More than 100 people were injured in brawls throughout the city, with at least 67 suffering stab wounds.

"We are still getting stabbing and mauling victims," a nurse at the emergency room of Manila's Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital said Friday night. The nurse, who declined to be identified, said doctors there had treated 28 stabbing cases and 34 victims of beatings.

Armed forces chief Gen. Fidel V. Ramos had warned soldiers and licensed gun holders against firing guns into the air to celebrate the new year, but many apparently did not heed the warning. Hospitals reported 24 people with gunshot wounds, many of them caused by stray bullets.

Officials say bullets falling back to earth after they had been fired into the air can be as deadly as when aimed at a person.

Hours before the end of 1987, Manila's streets exploded like a war zone, with the crackle of illegal firecrackers reaching deafening levels at midnight. The air reeked of gunpowder everywhere and the entire city was covered with smoke from fireworks and hundreds of bonfires made with old tires.

(01X 2 04-01-88 12:03 acs

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ New life was breathed into a plan to legalize fireworks in Iowa Thursday when Senate Majority Leader Bill Hutchins, D-Audubon, placed the measure on the Senate's unfinished business calendar.

The action meant the bill would not die in a self-imposed funnel deadline Friday. It will be eligible for debate during the last two weeks of the legislative session.

"I don't support the sale of fireworks in Iowa, but those are the kinds of issues that should not be decided by the majority leader," Hutchins told reporters.

"We have plenty of time to debate those kinds of issues," he said.

The funnel is designed to weed out legislation during the session so lawmakers are not overwhelmed by a barrage of bills the final weeks of the General Assembly.

Sen. Ed Holden, R-Davenport, complained the practice of placing bills on the unfinished business calendar undercuts the intention of the funnel.

"We pass more bad legislation the last week of the session. We should let the funnel work and let the bills die," Holden said.

"You should keep your wits about you or get used to going home and saying, 'I don't remember voting for that. I didn't know we passed that,'" he said.

Hutchins said numerous bills were placed on the special calendar so lawmakers could take off Good Friday.

"It's within the rules. There are bills we rolled over to the unfinished business today that I don't necessarily like. But that is for

this body to decide," he said.

3 07-29-86 07:31 ppd

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) _ A probe into a warehouse blast that killed nine people will continue even though federal charges were dropped against three people accused of operating a secret fireworks factory in the building, officials said.

U.S. Magistrate F. Steele Langford dismissed the government complaint Tuesday against Wayne Louis Quan, 28, his sister, Laureen Quan, 24, and Steven Randall Leong, 28, all of San Francisco. But he preserved the right of the government to recharge the three after further investigation.

The three had been accused of conspiracy and manufacturing explosives without a license. Investigators said they believed the three had been working with Thomas Cuyos and his partner, Nolan Florita, who were apparently operating an illegal fireworks factory in the huge Hunters Point warehouse containing a number of small businesses.

Florita and Cuyos, a pyrotechnics expert, were among the nine people killed in the April 4 blast and fire.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Healey said the probe would continue.

Attorney Marvin Friedman, who represents Laureen Quan, said. "The dismissal really means the government is not ready to go forward with the case. If they come up with something, (the Quans and Leong) will come in voluntarily. We have nothing to hide."

Healey also said state fire officials have been involved in the case. But he refused to speculate on any potential charges under consideration by local authorities.

1 07-31-86 01:37 acd

"Dago bomb" stricken from code

By CAROLYN BELARDO

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) _ The Sons of Italy has persuaded an agency that writes fire regulations to delete the term "dago bomb" from the national fire code.

The group, whose formal name is the Order Sons of Italy in America, pointed out the term was used in the National Fire Prevention Code to describe a type of firecracker.

The code is designed to deal with maintenance and control of fire hazards in buildings and is adopted by many municipal governments.

The organization, which is based in Washington, D.C., and has a membership of 200,000 in the United States and Canada, wrote a letter to the Chicago-based Building Officials & Code Administrators International Inc., a non-profit municipal service organization, which agreed the term should be deleted from the code.

"It wasn't intended to be derogatory as a type of firework in the trade," said Paul Heilstedt, deputy executive director of BOCA. "But certainly it was derogatory."

"Our research indicates that decades ago the most prevalent fireworks manufacturers were of Italian descent. Even today a great

number of fireworks manufacturers are of Italian descent," Heilstedt said.

"The Sons of Italy is concerned for ethnic stereotypes as it concerns Italian-Americans," spokesman Gabriel Bevilacqua explained Wednesday. "We obviously want to be treated like anyone else."

Bevilacqua said the term was used to put other people down.

Heilstedt said the term "dago bomb" was coined at the turn of the century by an Italian.

Heilstedt said the fire codes in nearly every state contain the term "dago bomb" and it will take a "major effort" to strike the term from all the books.

The Order Sons of Italy has some 20,000 members in Pennsylvania.

1 07-31-86 12:26 aed

Five trailers leveled in fireworks explosion

WEST POINT, Va. (UPI) _ Five trailers storing fireworks exploded Wednesday, destroying fireworks valued at \$250,000 plus three vehicles, a boathouse and water tower, officials said.

There were no injuries in the accident, which was reported about 1:15 p.m. at Chelsea Plantation, said King William County Sheriff Wayne Healy.

"We were very lucky. We just thank the Lord no one was hurt," said Healy.

Russieri USA, a French fireworks firm, has been licensed to store the fireworks in the county for the past year, Healy said.

Five trailers housing the fireworks were destroyed, in addition two pickup trucks, a car, a water tower and a nearby boathouse, he said. The fireworks were valued at about \$250,000, said Healy.

The series of explosions, heard up to four miles away, were probably touched off by workers testing fuses on the fireworks, Healy said.

"It's under investigation now," he said. "I don't really want to speculate, but the fire chief says some of the fuses apparently weren't working, and so they were testing them. It seems one caught on, and just triggered the rest of it."

Healy said once the trailers started burning, fire crews could do little but contain the fire and let it burn out.

"We flew over it in a helicopter and decided it would be best to just wait it out," said Healy.

State police will handle the investigation, said Healy. Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms also arrived at the scene Wednesday to inspect the damage.

1 10-27-86 03:14 pcs

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ Citing lack of probable cause in the criminal complaint, a Rock County judge Monday dismissed a charge of second-degree murder against the officer of a fireworks company involved in a fatal explosion.

Rock County Circuit Judge Patrick Rude agreed with the attorney for

Richard Sheard, 40, of Columbus, and dismissed the second-degree murder charges and two other injury charges filed earlier this month.

Sheard was charged as an officer of the Pyro Science Development Corp. Pyro Science owned a fireworks factory in the Town of Lima near Milton. Explosives in the shed exploded in 1983, killing Dennis Whitt, 26, and injuring four others.

"Frankly, I was surprised at his (Rude's) decision. We will just correct what he (Rude) felt were defective parts of the complaint and reissue the charges," said Rock County District Attorney James Daley.

Larry Cornellier Sr., 45, who lists his address as Beloit, Wis., and South Beloit, Ill., also has been charged with second-degree murder. A motion to dismiss that charge on similar grounds is scheduled to be heard Tuesday in Rock County Court.

Corporate officer Allyn Colantino, 36, of Chicago, and the company as a corporate entity, also have been charged.

Paul Merkle, a former corporate officer and a Rock County public defender and Frederick Sandmeyer, 29, of Kansas City, have accepted offers of immunity in exchange for their testimony.

A preliminary hearing for Sheard, Cornellier, Pyro Science and Colantino had been scheduled for Friday.

Daley said that hearing may have to be delayed if he needs to reissue charges against Cornellier and Pyro Science.

He said he had been negotiating with another party regarding immunity in exchange for testimony, but he would not comment as to who that party is.

The charge against the company is believed to be the state's first criminal corporate liability case, Daley said. In his research, Daley said he could not find a similar case in Wisconsin, and he was using Illinois cases as precedent.

5 10-30-86 10:40 pcs

(III.)

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ All charges against a fireworks company and its officers stemming from a fatal explosion at a company plant near Milton three years ago have been dismissed and will be refiled, the Rock County district attorney's office said Thursday.

"We anticipate it will take us about two weeks to amend the criminal complaints, take care of some other paperwork and refile charges," said Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Schweitzer.

Second-degree murder charges had been filed against Pyro Science Development Corp, as a corporate entity; Larry Cornellier Sr., 45, of South Beloit, Ill. and Beloit, Wis.; Frederick Sandmeyer, 29, of Kansas City, Mo.; and Allyn Colantino, 36, of Chicago.

Rock County Judge Patrick Rude dismissed charges against Richard Sheard, 40, of Columbus, earlier this week, citing a lack of probable cause in the criminal complaint.

Rock County District Attorney James Daley then made motions to drop charges against the other officials in order to hold a consolidated preliminary hearing.

Charges will not be reissued against Sandmeyer, who has agreed to

testify against the other parties, Daley said.

The explosion three years ago killed Dennis Whitt, 26, and injured four others.

1 10-30-86 07:56 aes

Store owner gunned down

WEST WARWICK, R.I. (UPI) _ A Coventry man with a history of convictions for drugs, weapons and illegal fireworks was found shot to death inside his variety store, police said.

Frank "Babe" Kowal, 59, was pronounced dead at his store, Tommy's Discount, from a single gunshot wound to the left temple from a small calibre handgun. Kowal's body was found by a friend about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Investigators speculate Kowal may have been shot by someone who knew him because he always kept his front door locked after being robbed several times in past years. The store was ransacked, but police were not immediately sure if any merchandise was taken or if Kowal was the victim of a robbery.

"Now we're just trying to put the pieces together," Police Chief Anthony Ventura said, adding that all eight of his department's detectives are working on the case.

Kowal had a history of run-ins with the law. His store had been raided by police in the past as a gambling operation. Kowal was also convicted of possession of drugs and stolen goods and trafficking in illicit fireworks.

In October 1983, police raided Tommy's Discount and smashed what they said was a \$20,000-a-week sports betting operation. Kowal pleaded no contest to a charge of promoting illegal lotteries and was fined \$500. A companion charge of conspiracy was dismissed.

In 1979, he was sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted of charges stemming from a 1977 raid on a Coventry house he owned. Officers seized stolen pharmaceutical drugs with a wholesale value of \$134,000.

For years, Kowal peddled fireworks, according to authorities, and once asked state lawmakers to support legalizing them. In 1982, Kowal was driving a van packed with fireworks which exploded in Warwick.

1 01-27-88 07:13 pcs

(alaska)

Fireworks firm sparks lawsuit

ST. LOUIS (UPI) _ The Missouri attorney general Wednesday sued an Alaska company, Liberty Bell Fireworks Inc., for its alleged failure to deliver fireworks ordered by more than 100 Missourians.

Attorney General William Webster filed the action in St. Louis City Circuit Court, saying consumers throughout the state were affected. He estimated 120 consumers are due refunds of from \$20 to \$100 from Liberty Bell for non-delivery of pre-paid orders.

Webster said consumers received mail solicitations advertising the fireworks and that consumers received neither the fireworks nor promised refunds.

The lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction, restitution to consumers and fines of \$1,000 per violation.

1 01-27-88 08:36 aes

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (UPI) _ The city of Charleston has been named in a \$1.9 million lawsuit brought by a man left blind in one eye after a fireworks accident during the 1986 Sternwheel Regatta.

Charles Hall, of South Charleston, filed the suit Tuesday in Kanawha County Circuit Court against several fireworks companies, the Charleston Festival Commission and the city.

Hall was working as a volunteer radio operator at the regatta when a fireworks shell misfired. He said in the suit that a "bullet of burning phosphorus" hit him in the left eye.

The suit contended festival officials failed to help Hall after the incident, instead continuing the fireworks display.

2 04-26-88 11:35 acd

(Kan.)

(adding investigation Tuesday, names and conditions of victims)

Investigators seek cause to fireworks factory fire

CLINTON, Mo. (UPI) _ Investigators worked Tuesday to determine the cause of an explosion that ripped through a fireworks factory as workers were ending their shift, killing one person and injuring three, authorities said.

The fire at one of the Zenith Fireworks Co. buildings occurred about 4 p.m. Monday and sent workers fleeing from the flames as a series of explosions destroyed the building. Smoke from the explosion could be seen a mile away, a dispatcher from the Clinton Fire Department said.

Officials from the state fire marshal's office were on the scene Tuesday and officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were expected to arrive Tuesday, said Allen Gill, the city administrator.

"Until they do their investigation there really is no way to determine the cause," Gill said.

An autopsy was performed Tuesday on the body of the person found by fire officials as they sifted through debris following the fire, officials said.

Another factory worker was listed as missing, but officials were not sure if the missing person and the victim were the same person.

"They have one person missing and unaccounted for and they have one body recovered, but at this point they are unable to make a positive identification on the body," Gill said.

John Taylor was hospitalized at the University of Missouri-Columbia medical center and Boyd Herley was in the burn unit at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., Gill said. Both men were listed in critical condition. Their ages and hometowns were not known, Gill said.

Gary Palmer, another employee, was treated and released Monday from

Golden Valley Memorial Hospital in Clinton, which is about 70 miles southeast of Kansas City.

The building where the fire began housed the finished fireworks that were packaged and ready for shipping and the company's offices, Gill said.

"It's not an area of open powder kegs," Gill said.

"It was very chaotic," Clinton County Fire Chief Robert Harrell said of the initial fire scene. "People were running around and fireworks were going off when we arrived."

Company employees work in several buildings, and firefighters doused those buildings to keep the blaze from spreading. Damage was estimated at \$100,000, Harrell said. Zenith has been making fireworks in Clinton for more than 70 years, officials said. includes previous

1 30 Aug 86 07:01 Saturday

_Aerojet-Blast, Rocket Fuel Blast Kills Worker

— SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A half-pound of experimental solid rocket fuel exploded inside a testing bunker operated by defense contractor, killing one worker and slightly injuring a supervisor.

The blast occurred Friday as the worker was closing a metal lid on a concrete barrel in which he had placed the fuel at the remote site, about 20 miles east of downtown Sacramento, said Aerojet General Corp. spokesman Tom Fitzgerald.

The company identified the dead man as Edward Elliott Edson, 47, of Meadow Vista. The injured supervisor, William J. Blackburn, 46, of Orangevale, was standing behind Edson. He suffered a hearing loss and was treated for burns on his arms and hands, Fitzgerald said.

Officials were uncertain about the cause of the explosion and cordoned off the area for an investigation.

Fitzgerald said he could not give out information about the fuel or its potential use.

Aerojet, one of the top 10 defense contractors in California, is involved in key defense and aerospace contracts, including the MX Peacekeeper program.

8 29 Aug 86 00:12 Friday

Plant-xplosion, 3 Injured In Plant Explosion

— TOONE, Tenn. (AP) — An explosion at a pyrotechnic plant Thursday seriously burned three workers, officials said.

The blast at Kilgore Manufacturing Corp., which makes signal flares and other pyrotechnic devices for the U.S. Army, occurred about 7 p.m., said Joe Keller, director of the Hardeman County Ambulance Service.

The three employees, who were not identified, were airlifted to the Regional Medical Center in Memphis.

Terry Thompson, a hospital spokesman, said the three were being evaluated late Thursday and that no information on their condition was immediately available.

Hardeman County Sheriff's Department officials said they could release no

information about the explosion until Friday.

15 07-30-87 08:14 ppd

SAN DIEGO (UPI) _ Computer printouts detailing how to make explosives were confiscated Thursday at three high schools by police trying to determine if a student killed in a bomb blast was involved in a series of bombings.

Bomb-making instructions are available in various magazines that are easily obtained, but their availability to high school students through computer networks has concerned authorities that a recent spate of vandalism pipe bombings and shootings in San Diego County may reflect a growing trend.

Most of the incidents have occurred during predawn hours and involved mailboxes and abandoned cars. Teenagers are believed responsible in most cases.

"We are really concerned about it because all of these people are high-school age," said Capt. Jim Smidt. "They're getting the information to put these weapons together, but aren't sophisticated enough to know these things are really, really dangerous."

Instructions detailing about two dozen ways to make explosives were seized at three high school by investigators who are trying to determine whether Michael Ham, 17, participated in the recent bombings and shootings.

Ham, an honors student, was killed Wednesday when a pipebomb exploded in a car in which he and two 17-year-old friends were riding.

The driver, Daniel Smith, who admitted helping plant a pipebomb that damaged the car last week, was treated for minor injuries.

Investigators are trying to determine whether the three youths were involved in 10 similar incidents since November, or whether they are responsible for shooting out windows in about a dozen parked cars during the past two weeks in the area of Wednesday's explosion.

A search of Smith's house revealed pieces of pipe, powder, fuses and other materials used to make explosives, police Sgt. Frank Barone said.

Investigators also found a booklet that shows how to make pipebombs, light-bulb bombs and other explosive devices, he said.

1 12-28-86 05:07 pes

Bhagwan's Rolls latest addition for car collector

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (UPI) _ The purchase of Rolls-Royces that once belonged to cult leader Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh are the latest addition to the collection of cars owned by Herbie Livingston.

Livingston, who built a fortune from a small fireworks business, bought six of the Bhagwan's Rolls-Royces in Dallas, weeks after purchasing a unique Rolls once owned by the leader _ a car similar to one driven by super-spy James Bond.

The automobiles were auctioned after Shree Rajneesh left the United States. The Bhagwan's commune in Oregon is now defunct.

Livingston bought the "James Bond" car in Oregon. The automobile

can dispense a smoke screen to thwart attackers and spray out an oil slick, sending pursuers sliding off the road. It is also equipped with sirens, gunports and bulletproof doors.

"I had my mind set on that particular car," Livingston told The Charlotte Observer newspaper. "It's the most unusual car I've seen in my life."

Livingston paid \$120,000 for the James Bond car, valued at \$1.6 million.

Livingston suggested letting prominent people use the vehicle for protection when they come to visit in the Charleston area.

"When a lot of dignitaries come into town, like the military or the president, we could loan it to them," he said.

Livingston rose from poverty and built a fortune from a business founded on a car loaded with \$345 in fireworks. He now operates Herbie's Antique Automobile Museum, which also has an ice cream factory, lounge and pawn shop.

Livingston's father lost money in The Great Depression, and as a boy, Herbie was sent to a Charleston corner grocery to learn a trade. At 19, he opened his own store and later went into the fireworks business.

Then in 1985, after the Bhagwan was deported from the country Herbie decided he wanted to buy the James Bond Rolls.

"I always thought I would be successful, but I didn't know how successful I'd be," Livingston said. "I thank God I have been so successful. The Bhagwan has given me a lot of success."

1 12-30-86 03:50 pes

PARMA, Ohio (UPI) _ State and local authorities Tuesday removed "large quantities" of fireworks and other explosives discovered in a home Christmas Eve, Parma police said.

Authorities found the fireworks when they made a medical call to the home, where Norman Hoyt, 53, was found dead.

Representatives from the Ohio Fire Marshal's office, the Parma Fire Department and the Parma Police Department removed the explosives from the house Thursday and burned them in a landfill, police spokesman Bert Schulte said.

"The appearance was that it was being manufactured here," Schulte said.

Parma policeman Charlie Cook said an explosion at the house "would probably of cleaned out anywhere from three-eighths to one-half a mile of land."

1 03 Oct 87 07:37 Saturday
China-Executions, China Executes Crime Crackdown

BEIJING (AP) _ Huang Baoxiang of Hong Kong was convicted of stealing 18

vans and cars in southern China and selling them for \$497,000, a sum that is 2,000 times an urban worker's annual wage. He was executed.

Liang Qingxiang of Shanghai was convicted of buying and showing pornographic videotapes and acts that "seduced and encouraged men and women in indecent behavior." He, too, was executed.

Deng Qilin, a 24-year-old worker in a fireworks factory, set off a bomb for unexplained reasons in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, one of communist China's most revered places, in July. It caused little damage, but he was executed nevertheless.

The three men were among the thousands _ more than 10,000 by Western estimates _ who have been executed since senior leader Deng Xiaoping launched an anti-crime drive in August 1983.

A bullet in the back of the head has long been the method of execution in China. The condemned person is blindfolded and forced to kneel with the executioner standing behind with a pistol. But the method of execution is seldom spelled out in the reports of executions and it is widely believed that families of the condemned person must pay 27 cents for the bullet.

Most of those sentenced to death are convicted murderers, rapists or habitual thieves. But capital punishment is also administered in more flagrant cases of corruption, pornography and social disorder that are deemed disruptive to Deng's attempts to initiate market-oriented reforms and open China to the outside world.

In 1982 China's criminal laws were revised to make serious economic crimes such as smuggling, theft of cultural relics and large-scale bribery punishable by death.

But as late as January 1986, Deng apparently felt the courts were still too lenient.

He told the Standing Committee of the Politburo then that "generally speaking, the problem now is that we are too soft on criminals."

"As a matter of fact, execution is one of the indispensable means of education," Deng added. His remarks were recently published in book of his speeches.

He said those who traffic in women and children, make a living by playing on people's superstitions or organize reactionary secret societies must be dealt with harshly.

Western analysts who follow China's criminal system say both the numbers of executions and the publicity surrounding them appear to increase as an important Communist Party meetings approach and a party Congress is scheduled to begin in late October.

That could explain a spate of executions in recent months in conformance with the oft-repeated saying, "By killing one we educate 100."

One day in September eight people were reported executed, six in Beijing for robbing taxis and two in Canton for running prostitution rings.

Also in September, those executed included two men in southern China who made poisoned liquor which killed 33, two men who robbed and killed a Chinese-American aboard a train, the Tiananmen Square bomber and the Hong Kong car thief.

There were probably more, but the government releases no figures and generally announces only cases it wants to make examples of.

One example was the execution last year of a man who slightly injured two Australian women in a robbery attempt. Attacks on foreign tourists, the government has made clear, will not be tolerated.

China claims its crime rate is still well below most Western nations and

Japan, and that the number of criminal cases has dropped by more than a third since the anti-crime campaign began in 1983.

4 04-02-87 01:01 aes

Huntsville lawmaker proposes statewide ban on fireworks
By BRUCE RITCHIE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (UPI) _ A Madison County dentist says his son would be alive today if a bill that would ban the sale of fireworks in Alabama had been law last year.

Dr. Carl Wayne Myers said he thinks his son, Greg, would still be alive if the bill offered by Rep. Steve Hettinger, D-Huntsville, was in force before the accident on July 4, 1986.

"I feel like if we can get this legislation passed, it won't be a thing that can help my son, but perhaps it will help other people's children to prevent the same thing from happening to them," Myers said Wednesday.

The bill pre-filed by Hettinger would make it a misdemeanor to sell "Class C" fireworks including firecrackers, sparklers, smoke bombs and bottle rockets. The misdemeanor carries a fine of up to a \$500 and a jail sentence of up to three months.

Myers' son died when the van he was riding in was engulfed by flames after a bag of fireworks in his lap ignited. Myers said he is reminded of his son's death "everytime I see a fireworks stand on the side of the road."

"You don't have to go very far, unfortunately," Myers added.

The accident occurred after Myers gave his son what he describes as a "very stern" lecture about the dangers of fireworks.

Although fireworks sales are banned in many Alabama cities including Huntsville, they remain available in the surrounding counties.

Alabama law prohibits the sale of fireworks to children under the age of 16, but Greg Myers was able get fireworks by going outside the city limits with some friends to buy them.

Barbara Berry, the manager of Berry Fireworks in Birmingham said she does not favor the bill.

"I wouldn't like to see it become illegal because there are a lot of people who use the product and respect the product and use it legally," Berry said.

Berry said problems occur when people illegally buy fireworks and incorrectly use them.

Hettinger said he hopes his bill would reduce the number of injuries caused by fireworks. Nationwide in 1984, there were seven deaths and 9,800 injuries caused by fireworks, he said.

Although fireworks would remain available in the neighboring states of Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida, Hettinger said he hopes the bill would substantially reduce their availability in Alabama.

Hettinger said he has found some support from lawmakers for his bill but has not talked to enough of them to determine if they will vote for it.

He expects vigorous opposition from people the fireworks industry because his bill "would be shutting an industry down."

"I think the overriding concern is safety in this instance rather

than slowing down a particular industry as it were," Hettiger said.

1 03-30-87 09:40 pcs

(mo., neb., s.d.)

House backs firecracker sales

By SCOTT SONNER

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ The Iowa House has voted 52-40 to end a 50-year prohibition on the sale and use of firecrackers, a move designed to bolster patriotic celebrations and halt the flow of illegal fireworks into Iowa.

"The Fourth of July and fireworks are just about as American as apple pie," Rep. Charles Poncy, D-Ottumwa, said Monday.

The bill, which must be approved by the Senate, would legalize the sale and use of most firecrackers for persons 16 or older between Memorial Day and July 20 of each year.

Such sales were banned in 1938 due largely to a fire that destroyed much of the city of Spencer when a child dropped a sparkler into a box of fireworks in 1931.

"I remember all the good times as a child with firecrackers," said Poncy, 55, who recalled eating ice cream and chicken with relatives while watching fireworks on a hot summer night.

"When I was a kid, you always tried to be the first one up on the Fourth of July to start lighting firecrackers. You were always a little embarrassed to wake up and already hear firecrackers.

"When we couldn't find firecrackers, we took little chunks of white carbide and put it in a can and made a little hole then would light the gas and watch it explode," Poncy said.

The bill would allow for smaller firecrackers, such as Black Cats, but not the larger cherry bombs. It also requires a \$25 permit to shoot fireworks in a public display and, for the first time, provides language for the state fire marshal to prosecute Iowans for possession of fireworks outside the legal dates.

"It seem ludicrous to have the present law which says you can possess fireworks but you can't shoot them or sell them," said Rep. Dan Jay, D-Centerville, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Bill Harbor, R-Henderson, the bill's sponsor, said residents on Iowa's southern border are tired of seeing Iowans drive through their communities to buy fireworks across the border every summer.

"Over the years it has just become an accepted fact that people need to go to Missouri, Nebraska or South Dakota to get fireworks, bring them back to Iowa and use them," he said.

"In this bill we have put in the greatest degree of safety for fireworks we possibly could have," Harbor said.

Supporters said the bill will boost the economy by bringing fireworks' sales to Iowa, but opponents disagreed.

"I have been across the Missouri border and seen the miserable little stands that sell fireworks. If that's your idea of economic development, you are extremely misguided," Rep. Andy McKean, R-Morely, said.

"This represents a departure from the good quality of life we receive in Iowa. Any economic benefits you get from the sale of

firecrackers will be severely outweighed by the harm caused to the people throughout the state of Iowa," he said.

Rep. Tom Miller, R-Cherokee, said the bill would set a bad example for children.

"We don't need to teach young people any bad habits. They have enough already," he said.

Rep. Phil Tyrrell, R-North English, said the state may face lawsuits if the bill is signed into law.

"You talk about firecrackers' being safer than they used to be. Still, literally thousands and thousands of persons are injured each year in this country by the use of fireworks whether they are legal or illegal. You are creating fertile ground for more tort-liability cases in Iowa," he said.

But Rep. Joe Kremer, R-Jesup, said Iowans should be able to "enjoy fireworks without being chased by the authorities."

"In the Middle Ages, Marco Polo returned to Italy from the Far East and one of the wonders he told about was fireworks. It is nothing new. It is something the people of Iowa, the people of the world, Europe and the Far East, have enjoyed for years and years. We'd just as well legalize something that already is being done," Kremer said.

2 04-01-87 01:05 acs

JANESVILLE, Wis. (UPI) _ The attorney for a Beloit man charged with homicide by reckless conduct for a 1983 explosion at a Milton fireworks factory has filed a motion for substitution of judge.

The motion by John Olson on behalf of Larry Cornellier Sr., 45, will delay a Thursday hearing in Rock County Circuit Court on a motion to dismiss the charge. Judge John Lussow had been scheduled to hear the motion.

Cornellier, president of Pyro Science Development Corp., is accused of moving pyrotechnics material from Beloit to the Milton site, which blew up less than a month after the move.

Dennis Whitt, 26, died in the March 23, 1983 explosion. Four others, including two of Cornellier's children, were injured.

Olson in his motion to dismiss the charge contends the complaint left out critical facts and the factory actually had been rented to Cornellier's son.

Cornellier and other officers of the corporation were charged with second degree murder last fall. But a Rock County judge dismissed the charge against Cornellier after ruling the criminal complaint did not support the charge.

The amended criminal complaint includes statements by the officers. The original charges against them were withdrawn after the dismissal and were not refiled because of their cooperation with the district attorney's office, authorities said.

2 06-01-88 12:08 acd

News events scheduled around Iowa during the next two days include:

— CEDAR RAPIDS, 1 p.m. - The Committee for Fireworks Victimization Prevention and Safety holds a news conference, Central Fire Station, 222 Third Street N.W.

5 05-30-88 02:21 ped

(Refiling to add time of accident)

Fireworks rocket injures spectators

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ A rocket that misfired and shot horizontally into a crowd of spectators Sunday night injured at least 15 people, three seriously.

One man, Steve Stevens, 34, of Springfield was reportedly struck in the chest by the rocket and suffered burns to his chest and hands.

Officials at Grandview Hospital said Monday that Stevens was in serious condition. His wife, Malissa, 26, and son, Jonathyn, 5, were in good condition with unspecified injuries, a hospital spokeswoman said.

At Children's Medical Center, a 5-year-old girl was listed in serious condition with burns Sunday night, but her status was upgraded to good by Monday afternoon, a hospital spokesman said. Also in good condition were a 4-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy.

The hospital treated a total of six children and one adult, who was transferred to Miami Valley Hospital.

At Miami Valley, 19-year-old James Norbut of Beavercreek was in serious condition Monday with burns. Eight other adults were in fair condition, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Paramedics brought in nine people and four came in on their own, with five people treated and released by Monday, the hospital said.

Witnesses near the accident at the River Fest said one of the rockets appeared to misfire and launched horizontally into the crowd on the bank of the Great Miami River.

Jerry Cline of Moraine said the rocket shell hit and bounced along the stone levee by the bank. It "sprayed fire" along a 50-yard stretch, he said.

Dana Ray of Bellbrook, who was treated and released for burns on his chest, stomach and arms, said the rocket "hit right in front of me. I was on top of the levee where the bikewalk is. It hit (the ground) and threw me over the levee."

"All I remember was I was just sitting there, and suddenly there was major light and heat," Ray said.

The 25-minute display, ending with a loud finale, continued as paramedics treated injured spectators.

Dayton Fireworks Spectacular Inc., a non-profit corporation, organized the show for the festival. Fire Chief Glenn Alexander said the company that put on the display, San Diego Fireworks, was the same company that handles the pyrotechnics for Michael Jackson concerts.

Alexander said the malfunctioning rocket "was one of those double-bangers."

He said the rocket apparently hit about three feet from the bank and shot upward. Then it rolled further down the bank and exploded again, Alexander said.

Alexander said the company met all of Dayton's safety requirements and had obtained a \$1 million insurance bond. Investigators had no immediate assessment on why the rocket misfired, he said.

8 05-31-88 07:49 aed

Investigation continues into fireworks mishap

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ Fire investigators are still searching for clues on why a rocket misfired and shot horizontally into a crowd of spectators Sunday night, injuring at least 15 people, several seriously.

According to officials of the company that supplied the fireworks for the River Fest display, the ricocheting shell may have come from a different area along the Great Miami River than the company's launching pad.

However, an official with the Dayton Fire Department said several witnesses reported the rocket "came from where they were shooting off the rest of the fireworks."

Rick Leibert, director of the National Fireworks Ensemble, which produced the show, said he would be meeting with Dayton fire officials today to review the accident.

The shell seriously injured Steve Stevens, 34, of Springfield, who was reportedly struck in the chest by the rocket and suffered burns to his chest and hands.

Officials at Grandview Hospital said Monday that Stevens was in serious condition. His wife, Malissa, 26, and son, Jonathyn, 5, were in good condition with unspecified injuries, a hospital spokeswoman said.

At Children's Medical Center, a 5-year-old girl was listed in serious condition with burns Sunday night, but her status was upgraded to good by Monday afternoon, a hospital spokesman said. Also in good condition were a 4-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy. Their names were not released.

The hospital treated a total of six children and one adult, who was transferred to Miami Valley Hospital, the spokesman said.

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He said the rocket apparently hit about three feet from the bank and shot upward. Then it rolled further down the bank and exploded again, Alexander said.

Alexander said San Diego Fireworks met all of Dayton's safety requirements and had obtained a \$1 million insurance bond.

Ron Dixon, a spokesman for the company, told a Dayton television station Monday that he does not believe the shell came from the company's launching pad.

The producers of the show spent hours Monday reviewing videotapes of the rockets used in the performance.

10 05-31-88 03:51 ped

Origin of maverick rocket questioned

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ A spokesman for the company that supplied the fireworks for the River Fest said a maverick rocket that shot into the crowd along the river bank may not have been launched from the company's staging area.

Ron Dixon of San Diego Fireworks Inc. said the shell that misfired may have come from another area, and not the launching pad used by the company for its pyrotechnics show Sunday night.

The company supplied the fireworks and helped put on the display, which was produced by the National Fireworks Ensemble.

During the show, a rocket blasted into the crowd, injuring 20 spectators, according to figures compiled by the Dayton Fire Department. One person, Steve Steven, 34, of Springfield, remained in serious condition Tuesday, a spokeswoman for Grandview Hospital said.

Fire Chief Glenn Alexander said investigators had scoured the banks of the Great Miami River looking for remains of the errant rocket.

"We don't have anything that supports that at this point," he said when asked about a televised report that the company found shell fragments it said did not match the other rockets it fired.

Alexander disputed earlier reports that the 25-minute show continued unabated as paramedics treated injured spectators.

He said rescue workers originally responded to a report of an explosion in the Canoe Club alongside the river, but when witnesses said that a rocket had struck bystanders, "we stopped the show."

Investigators on Monday reviewed videotapes of the display obtained from a television station that was airing the performance live.

Alexander said the joint fire-police investigation underway will include an assessment from the police bomb squad on the rocket shell.

Investigators were also trying to find out the manufacturer of the suspect rocket. Both Chinese- and U.S.-made fireworks were used in the

show, Alexander said.

He said it may be several days before a cause for the accident is determined.

12 06-01-88 02:06 aed

Investigators sift for clues in fireworks accident

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ Fire Chief Glenn Alexander said it may be several days before officials can determine why a fireworks rocket spun into a group of spectators at the River Fest, injuring at least 20 people.

Investigators have reviewed videotapes of the display obtained from a television station that was broadcasting a live performance of the Sunday night show, Alexander said. A joint fire and police investigation underway will include an assessment from the police bomb squad on the rocket shell, he added.

Officials were also trying to determine the manufacturer of the suspect rocket. Both Chinese- and U.S.-made fireworks were used in the show, Alexander said.

A spokesman for the company that supplied the fireworks for the River Fest said the maverick rocket may not have been launched from the company's staging area.

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San Diego Fireworks supplied the rockets and helped put on the display, which was produced by the National Fireworks Ensemble.

Twenty people were injured in the mishap, according to figures compiled by the Dayton Fire Department. One person, Steve Steven, 34, of Springfield, remained in serious condition Tuesday, a spokeswoman for Grandview Hospital said.

Alexander said investigators had scoured the banks of the Great Miami River looking for remains of the errant rocket.

"We don't have anything that supports that at this point," he said when asked about a televised report that the company found shell fragments it said did not match the other rockets it fired.

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He said rescue workers originally responded to a report of an explosion in the Dayton Canoe Club alongside the river, but when witnesses said that a rocket had struck bystanders, "we stopped the show."

15 06-03-88 10:07 aed

Southwest Ohio News Briefs
By United Press International

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ A Beavercreek man injured in a fireworks accident at the Dayton River Fest on Sunday has filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of himself and 26 other injured people.

The suit by James Norbut names as defendants the city of Dayton,

the chamber of commerce, a non-profit corporation formed to organize the show, San Diego Fireworks Inc. and the National Fireworks Ensemble and its promoter.

A second lawsuit, also filed Thursday, seeks "substantial damages" for a West Carrollton woman and her three children, who were injured in the accident.

The promoters of the show say the fireworks rocket that struck bystanders was not one of theirs. Thirteen people remain hospitalized with injuries from the accident.

1 30 May 88 18:27 Monday
Fireworks-Rocket, Fireworks Rocket Injures 14

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) _ A rocket from a fireworks display went off course, slammed into a crowd and exploded, hospitalizing 14 people, officials said.

Two of those hospitalized remained in serious condition Monday.

An undetermined number of other victims were treated for minor injuries, fire officials said. The Sunday night fireworks display continued after the accident as rescue crews treated the injured.

Dayton Fire Chief Glenn Alexander said the rocket misfired and streaked toward spectators on the Stillwater River banks downtown where they were viewing a pyrotechnic display during the annual River Fest. The rocket hit the bank near the river's edge and veered upward, spraying people with sparks and debris, he said.

Alexander said the company hired to put on the fireworks display, San Diego Fireworks, met all the city's safety requirements, obtained the necessary permit and had obtained a \$1 million insurance bond.

He said the crowd was kept at a distance from the fireworks that officials considered safe.

"It's been this way for several years," Alexander said.

Fire Lt. Barry Holbrook said Monday authorities are investigating the incident.

"It hit right in front of me ... and it threw me over the levee." said Dana Ray, a spectator who was treated for burns at a local hospital and released. "All I remember was I was just sitting there, and suddenly there was major light and heat."

Jerry Cline, who was sitting on the levee just a few feet from the explosion, said the rocket hit and the shell bounced along the levee and "sprayed fire" about 50 yards along the bank.

Dayton Fireworks Spectacular Inc., a non-profit corporation formed by Mid-America Federal Savings and Loan Association, WRGT-TV and WVUD-FM,

organized the fireworks show for the river festival.

Steven Stevens, 34, and James Norbert, 19, were hospitalized in serious condition Monday. Both suffered burns.

Six people, including four children, were listed in good condition Monday at area hospitals, and six others in fair condition.

2 30 May 88 11:54 Monday

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) _ A rocket launched as part of a river festival went awry and exploded in a crowd, injuring 15 people, fire officials said.

Two of the injured, a 34-year-old man and a 5-year-old girl, were hospitalized in serious condition.

The fireworks display Sunday night was being held as part of the annual River Fest on the banks of the Stillwater River in downtown Dayton.

A rocket apparently misfired and streaked toward the crowd, hitting the bank near the river's edge and then ricocheting upward, said Fire Chief Glenn Alexander. Spectators were sprayed with sparks and debris.

Officials are investigating the cause of the accident, Alexander said.

Jerry Cline, who was sitting on the levee just a few feet from the explosion, said the shell bounced along the levee and "sprayed fire" for about 50 yards along the bank.

The fireworks display continued while rescue crews treated the injured.

San Diego Fireworks, the company hired to put on the fireworks display, also handled pyrotechnics for Michael Jackson concerts, Alexander said.

The company, he said, met all the city's safety requirements, obtained the necessary permit and posted a \$1 million insurance bond.

Alexander said spectators were assembled at places considered a safe distance from where the fireworks descended.

1 05-30-88 07:41 pcd

Wisconsin News Briefs

SHAWANO, Wis. (UPI) _ A 19-year-old Shawano man died from burns received when he and a friend accidentally started a brush fire while setting off fireworks.

Paul A. Vandenberg died Saturday at St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee, Shawano County officials said. He suffered second and third-degree burns over 25 percent of his body.

Vandenberg and a friend went into a wooded area in the Town of Wescott, about half a mile from Highway H, and began setting off fireworks Friday afternoon. Vandenberg was injured while trying to extinguish the fire, police said.

He was taken to Shawano Community Hospital and later transferred to St. Mary's. No one else was injured.

Fire departments from Shawano and Wescott put out the fire, police said.

2 06-30-87 12:57 apd

PHOENIX (UPI) _ Phoenix fire officials, upset over an unauthorized fireworks display that injured at least one person, have decided to press charges against officials of a north Phoenix church who claim the necessary permits were obtained.

At least one person suffered burns Sunday when a bundle of Roman candles fired into spectators at Phoenix First Assembly of God. Embers from other fireworks fell onto the crowd of about 20,000 people, witnesses said.

No other injuries were reported, but spectators were seen stomping

out fires on their blankets and on the grass.

"We are going to prosecute," said Don Koepp, a captain with the Phoenix Fire Department.

Koepp said church officials did not obtain a permit for one of the sites used in the display. He said fire officials were not aware the church planned a display in front of the crowd.

He said the display was unauthorized because it was too close to the crowd and "should have never been shot off."

The Rev. Tommy Barnett, pastor of the church, insisted that "everything was done by code."

"This year we went all out, and we did not violate one code," Barnett said.

He said the church has staged the same fireworks display for the past seven years.

"I thought it went terrific. I thought it went great," he said.

Barnett said the only injuries he knew of were, "a little kid who got knocked down and got his face scraped" and "one guy got a hole (burned) in his shirt."

Koepp said the maximum penalty for not having the proper fireworks permit is a six-month jail sentence or a \$1,000 fine.

8 07-01-87 11:08 ppd

nev

VANCOUVER, Wash. (UPI) _ A 22-year-old Las Vegas man accused of attacking a television photographer at a fireworks stand on property owned by the suspect has been charged with assault and other crimes.

The alleged attack came as a television team was doing a story on how Oregon residents can cross into Washington and buy fireworks that are illegal in their home state.

Timothy Alan McKoy was charged with second-degree assault, first-degree attempted theft and unlawful imprisonment stemming from a scuffle June 26 at Northwest fireworks Inc., also known as Blackjack Fireworks, in Hazel Dell.

The charges were filed Tuesday, said Clark County Sheriff Frank Kanekoa.

Reagan Ramsey, news director for KGW-TV in Portland, said Grant Shirahama, 31, suffered a cut lip, some bruises and an injured back in the incident. He said the photographer was trying to prevent video tape from being taken out of his camera.

"Certainly nobody in this profession expects to be assaulted when trying to do his job," Ramsey said.

Shirahama was allegedly put in a neckhold and dragged into a back room and beaten by McKoy while reporter Patricia Kruijz attempted to separate the pair. The photographer was reportedly choked and thrown into boxes and onto ground during the fight that continued in the parking lot as the news team tried to escape.

The news team members contended they eventually managed to lock themselves in their vehicle and drive away.

However, Joan Lengacher, manager of Northwest Fireworks, said the fight was provoked by the photographer whom she said would not stop filming on her property when she asked him to. She said he had slipped into the warehouse and was filming against the wishes of her employees.

She also claimed that Shirahama taunted McKoy by challenging him to "try and take it" _ the tape.

Ramsey said however, that the photographer denied he had been on the property before he was forced on to it by McKoy.

9 07-02-87 01:02 apd

PHOENIX (UPI) _ Fire officials have cited a 25-year-old man for allegedly starting a \$365,000 fire at Turf Paradise through the illegal use of fireworks.

Fire Department spokesman Steve Jensen said Roger Frazier faces a misdemeanor charge of discharging fireworks without a permit. The charge carries a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to six months in jail or both upon conviction.

Jensen said Frazier, who was identified after an anonymous tip to a Phoenix television station, reportedly was entertaining his son with fireworks Tuesday night when he set off a bottle rocket that went into bales of straw at the race track.

The fire continued to smolder into Wednesday night.. It destroyed about 25,000 bales of straw, three open-air storage sheds and several thousand bags of oats, Jensen said.

Jensen said it was the largest dollar-loss fire in Phoenix history caused by illegal fireworks.

8 07-03-87 06:13 apd

Authorities prepare for July 4th revelers

LOS ANGELES (UPI) _ Trying to avoid tragedy during the Fourth of July weekend, authorities warned residents that guns and firecrackers can make the mid-summer holiday a dangerous one.

Police have taken special precautions to prevent the gang rumbles and riots that marred last year's celebrations in Santa Monica and Newport Beach, while various city officials cautioned that all firecrackers are illegal and random firing of guns will not be tolerated.

Santa Monica officials switched their grand fireworks display on the beach from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Saturday in an effort to avoid the massive gang fight last year that left a 16-year-old youth shot and killed, scores of others injured and 59 arrested.

Although police expect a smaller crowd for the "Dawn's Early Light" fireworks display this year, an extra 50 officers will be on duty for about a 24-hour period following the pyrotechnics.

"We're fully committed," said Lt. Alvin Bonar.

Los Angeles and Santa Ana police officials sternly warned that those who choose to celebrate the Fourth by firing guns into the air will be arrested.

"People are under the impression that shooting in the air can't kill," Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates said. "But they can."

Fireworks are also illegal in Los Angeles where officials said injuries and fires as a result of fireworks have dropped 90 percent in the last four years.

The Fire Department has provided special phone numbers for residents to find the nearest legal fireworks displays. The numbers are 818-786-5170 in the San Fernando Valley and 213-626-2871 in the metropolitan area.

All fireworks, including so-called safe and sane, are also illegal in Irvine, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Tustin, Yorba Linda, Anaheim, Brea, Laguna Beach, La Habra and Newport Beach, the Orange County Fire Department said.

With a shortage of spring rainfall and recent warm weather that has dried out hillside grass and brush, Orange County officials say fireworks are especially dangerous and have closed 195,000 acres of rural wildlands to public access until the end of the fire season.

9 07-03-87 07:13 apd

San Joaquin Valley News Briefs
By United Press International

FRESNO (UPI) _ City fire investigators said Friday a fire that destroyed a garage and the roof of a neighboring apartment unit early Thursday was caused by the use of illegal fireworks.

The fire broke out on the garage roof and then spread to the adjoining apartment unit roof before firefighters could douse the flames.

No one was injured in the blaze but damage to the two buildings was estimated at more than \$10,000.

Investigators said the fire was started when flares from a bottle rocket fired in a nearby yard landed on the garage roof. They found the burned out bottle rocket in a neighbor's yard, but were unable to determine immediately who lighted it.

10 07-03-87 07:16 ppd

Fireworks stand explodes

SEATTLE (UPI) _ The Fourth of July holiday weekend began explosively for a fireworks dealer who escaped serious injury when a lighted firecracker tossed into his stand turned his inventory into a crackling fireball.

All that remained of Bob McLean's stand in a Richmond Beach parking lot was a black, flattened mass of rubble in the incident Friday.

McLean was treated at Stevens Memorial Hospital in Edmonds for a back wound caused by debris sent flying by the exploding fireworks.

He told police he was in the plywood shack about 3 a.m., when someone tossed in an M-80 firecracker.

"It landed in a bunch of kits (of fireworks) and went off with a bang," McClean said. "If I had been at the other end (of the stand), I

would have had to run through exploding fireworks to get out."

The explosion was "so close my ears are still ringing" two hours later, he said.

McLean chased the young suspect but was outrun.

The stands's roof kept most of the shooting fireworks from exploding into the air. He estimated the loss at \$6,000 to \$10,000.

1 06-28-87 09:37 apd

No fireworks sales sets off fireworks

SPOKANE, Wash. (UPI) _ With the Fourth of July less than a week away, angry fireworks dealers are squaring off with the city council which, so far, has not issued them licenses to sell.

Although the city has threatened to confiscate any fireworks being sold without a permit, some vendors were expected to open Sunday on the grounds that state law gives them the right to do business, said Van Phillips, Northwest district manager for Red Devil Fireworks.

"The city council thinks they're above the law," Phillips said.

The possible confrontation is the latest in an annual dispute between fireworks wholesalers, who argue their right to do business, and the city council, which with three anti-fireworks members, has managed to postpone the permits two years in row.

The fuse to this year's fireworks' fireworks was lit last Monday when the council, with a member absent, split evenly on issuing permits for the city's 35 fireworks stands.

The stalemate meant the permits could not be issued until the permits were approved at the next Monday meeting, even though under state law the sales season begins Sunday.

The council's actions have also angered local service organizations that bolster their income with the sale of fireworks.

But Phillips said he is toying with the idea of starting sales without a permit. Red Devil has met all the state and city regulations, including a \$1 million liability insurance and \$300 cash bond for each site, he said.

"If they shut us down, we're going to expect compensation," he said. "I can't believe they think they're above the law."

If and when the stands do open, customers will find themselves faced with more of a fizzle than a bang. The city passed a law last year banning devices that fly or explode. Only non-moveable devices such as sparklers and smoke bombs are permitted.

But the confrontation in Spokane has brought smiles a few miles away on eastern Washington Indian reservations, where minimally regulated fireworks dealers can sell firecrackers and skyrockets that pack a bit of Fourth of July bang.

"We're cheering for no fireworks at all (in Spokane)," said Cindy Brigman, owner of Kaw-Li-Jas Fireworks outside Ford, Wash., just barely on the Spokane Indian Reservation. "That would be real good for us."

3 06-29-87 01:19 ppd

Boys playing with fireworks blamed for fire

COTTAGE GROVE, Ore. (UPI) _ Two 12-year-old boys playing with "ground spinner" fireworks sparked a fast-moving blaze that heavily damaged a home, destroyed a shop building and ignited spot fires along Interstate 5, officials said.

"This wasn't the only place they ignited fireworks and threw them into backyards," Fire Marshal Steve Allen said Monday. "This was just the only place they found something to catch on."

The blaze broke out about 5:45 p.m. Sunday, destroying the contents of the older two-story home and extensively damaging the structure. Damage was estimated Monday at \$40,000, not including firefighting efforts, Allen said.

The fireworks were thrown into the yard of at least one other residence and into a parking lot at another location, he said. Seven of the devices also were ignited and thrown beneath a freeway overpass but did not spark a fire, he added.

The fireworks involved, called a "ground bloom flower," are designed to pin around on the ground. They are about two inches long and five to eight inches in diameter, Allen said.

"The fireworks were legal but they were using them inappropriately," said Fire Capt. Ken Johnson.

Embers and burning paint chips spread across a main city thoroughfare and then across Interstate 5, igniting brushfires on both sides of the freeway, Johnson said. They were quickly extinguished.

One unidentified juvenile was taken into custody by police and released to his parents pending referral to Lane County juvenile authorities, Allen said. The other still was being sought. Johnson said neither boy lived in the burned house.

6 06-30-87 09:07 apd

SPOKANE, Wash. (UPI) _ Within minutes of Spokane City Council approval, fireworks stands opened Monday night.

Councilwoman Sheri Barnard returned from a one-week absence to break the deadlock that had cost dealers two days of lucrative sales.

"I'm going to vote for this because all these people (dealers) are ready, but I hope next year we can go to work with the state Legislature and get the fireworks laws changed," Barnard said.

She had barely finished her speech when Bob Brown, regional representative for Pyrodyne Corp. was on a pay phone to his warehouse where fully loaded trucks were waiting.

"O.K.," he said. "roll `em out."

Stands were supposed to open Sunday afternoon under state law, but that was postponed by the City Council's annual battle over selling fireworks at all. The council split evenly on June 22 as to when to authorize the sales, leaving dealers with no date.

City Attorney Jim Sloane told Barnard a "no" vote on her part would block sales of fireworks, but would likely land the city in court where it would likely lose a flurry of lawsuits filed by angry fireworks dealers.

10 07-03-87 09:10 apd

SPOKANE, Wash. (UPI) _ Faced with a rash of fireworks-related fires, the Spokane City Council decided it will try to ban fireworks sales in the city _ next year.

Mayor Vicki Mcneill said at a special session Thursday the city will ask the Legislature for the power to ban fireworks in 1988. Much as council members would like to stop sales immediately, the city doesn't have the authority.

The special council session amounted to little more than a review of fire protection procedures already in place. Fire Chief Paul Olsen assured the council that area residents are adequately protected.

The special session was called after city firefighters faced a hectic night Wednesday of responding to blazes ignited by fireworks, leading some city officials to fears that fire coverage was inadequate.

Olsen told the council city fire crews have been busy in the last week _ but protection is adequate.

Since Sunday, fire crews have responded to 84 alarms, and 31 of those have been linked to fireworks, he said.

3 06-29-87 06:51 pcd

(Ind)

Fireworks ordinance barred

By ALISON GRANT

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ An Ohio judge Monday issued a preliminary injunction against Dayton's ordinance that prohibits the sale of novelty fireworks.

But Montgomery County Common Pleas Judge Richard Dodge also advised

the city to appeal the decision in order to address what he called confusing language in the Ohio statute allowing the novelties.

"In the calmness of a cool November evening," said Dodge, an appeals court could address the "considerable confusion as to what the legislative intent was in enacting all these statutes."

The preliminary injunction favored Mr. Fireworks Inc. of Kokomo, Ind., which had challenged the city ordinance outlawing sparklers, noise-makers, snakes, party poppers and other devices.

The injunction followed a two-week temporary restraining order against the city that allowed Mr. Fireworks to continue selling its products at convenience stores in Dayton.

Dodge said the state law that went into effect this year allowing the sale of novelties prevents Dayton from installing more restrictive regulations.

Although the ruling applies only to Dayton and Mr. Fireworks, Dodge said "the state has definitely intended to pre-empt the entire area of fireworks."

Tony Sawyer, city law director, said the city will appeal the ruling.

Dayton Fire Chief Glenn Alexander testified there has been an

increase in fireworks-related incidents since the sale of novelties was approved for Ohio.

He cited several police and fire department reports on smoke bombs, including one occasion when a smoke bomb was hooked to an automobile's spark plug wires in an apparent attempt to have the device explode when the vehicle was started.

On cross questioning by Robert Kincaid, Jr., the attorney for Mr. Fireworks, Alexander said the reports did not specify whether the smoke bombs were novelties or "military grenade items."

Kincaid also challenged an incident described by Washington Township Fire Chief Dave Cunningham concerning the amount of damage caused by a fire ignited by sparklers earlier this month.

Two children playing with sparklers on the balcony of a condominium started a pine tree on fire, but the blaze was quickly extinguished by a neighbor using a garden hose, Kincaid said.

According to Alexander, the novelties law has weakened the powers of municipal fire chiefs by taking away what was formerly their exclusive jurisdiction to issue permits to shoot fireworks in the state.

The fireworks accident rate during the 1987 Fourth of July season will "probably be the worst record" for Ohio during the past 25 or 30 years, Alexander said.

The preliminary injunction will take effect next week. In the meantime, Mr. Fireworks can continue selling novelties under an extension of the temporary restraining order.

Before issuing the first restraining order, all Mr. Fireworks products sold in Dayton were displayed to Dodge in the parking lot of the Montgomery County courthouse.

5 06-30-87 08:05 acd

(ohio)

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) _ An Ohio mail-order fireworks company is illegally transporting fireworks into Indiana, state officials said.

Indiana Attorney General Linley E. Pearson and State Fire Marshal Larry Bosell said they are considering legal action against Fireworks Unlimited of Deerfield, Ohio.

Bosell said the company is shipping exploding-type fireworks into Indiana in violation of state law. Licensed resident wholesalers and distributors are exempt from the law, but anyone else must comply, he said.

The company has ignored letters warning of the violations, Bosell said.

But Fireworks Unlimited Board Chairman Larry Lomaz said his firm is not breaking the law because it sells only to licensed wholesalers and distributors in Indiana.

"It is illegal to discharge, not to possess," he said.

Bosell claimed his office purchased fireworks through the mail from Fireworks Unlimited without having to prove licensing.

Lomaz contended that Indiana has no jurisdiction over his out-of-state company, and Pearson said that jurisdictional questions pose problems.

"They should be more worried about people who come over and get

truckloads of fireworks to take to Indiana," Lomaz said.

6 07-02-87 06:30 pcd

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. (UPI) _ A Michigan City police officer is being investigated for selling illegal fireworks, a police official said Thursday.

Michigan City police Lt. Larry Jasicki said officer John Carpenter, a 21-year veteran of the force, is on vacation while the charges are being investigated.

Jasicki said undercover officers went to a fireworks stand owned or operated by Carpenter Wednesday and purchased fireworks. That purchase was used as the basis for a search warrant that enabled the officers to search his home.

Investigators confiscated 48 cases of illegal fireworks, Jasicki said.

The Indiana fire marshal's office is expected to submit its report to the LaPorte County prosecutor next week, Jasicki said.

If convicted of dealing in illegal fireworks, Carpenter could face a \$5,000 fine and a year in prison.

2 06-30-87 01:21 pcd

(X X X appearance, Metzger said.)

Marshall said state fire officials also join in border enforcement, which is concentrated primarily on the Iowa-Missouri line because Missouri's fireworks laws are the most lenient.

That state allows unrestricted marketing and use of Class C explosives, including bottle rockets, ladyfingers and Roman candles, while most other Midwest states permit Class C fireworks only during specified seasons. Iowa's laws are among the most stringent, Marshall said.

"When you make provisions for certain types of explosives to be sold at certain times, you're almost asking for confusion and trouble," Marshall said. "Iowa law is cut-and-dried _ only snakes, caps and sparklers, and that's all."

Marshall said although border enforcement is "the only restrictive means we have right now, it's not altogether effective. You can see a 10-year-old kid playing with \$200 worth of fireworks in southern Iowa, and you know darn well he bought them in Missouri, but you didn't see him (buy them) so you can't do anything."

Marshall said despite the work involved in fireworks-law enforcement, legalization would involve far more effort.

"I'm glad the Legislature did what it did _ it would be a disaster if they were legalized," he said. "Let alone the added potential for injury, we'd have to license thousands and thousands of people. It would be a mess."

Rep. Dan Jay, D-Centerville, who sponsored the measure, said although the proposal has raised extensive opposition, it probably will win passage in the 1988 Legislature.

"It was rejected by the Senate panel because lawmakers had added technical language concerning the storage of fireworks by private

companies," Jay said. "If the bill is passed, it will wipe out vague current legislation and be a definite boost to Iowa's economy."

Jay said he disagrees with John Nesbitt of Iowa City, founder of the Committee Against Fireworks in Iowa, who told lawmakers earlier this year at least one death and 178 injuries would occur in Iowa by 1989, if the Legislature legalizes the sale of fireworks.

Nesbitt accused lawmakers of bartering injuries and property damage to make a money on fireworks, Jay said.

"It's like any other product," Jay said. "If you use it responsibly, you're not going to get hurt."

Marshall agreed responsible use is the key to fireworks safety, but said most fireworks users are children and teenagers who fail to take precautions before engaging the explosives.

More than 12,000 fireworks-related accidents occurred nationwide last year, with 43 fires and two injuries reported in Iowa, Marshall said.

"That sounds serious, and it is, but in reality, it's just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "Most fireworks accidents go unreported."

Most accidents involve Class C bottle rockets because users cannot determine their direction, Marshall said. He said numerous users have sustained eye and skin injuries when the devices have exploded in their faces.

"Bottle rockets, especially, can maim and destruct," he said. "I have no idea why legislators would want to invite trouble by making them even more easily accessible."

(rls at will)

1 06-30-87 01:22 pcd

(release at will)

(mo.)

(nwp063004)

Iowans confused by fireworks rules

By LISA BYRD

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ Despite efforts in the Legislature to allow Iowans to buy fireworks, several retailers mistakenly believe they now can get away with selling more powerful explosives than those permitted under current law, officials say.

State officials said although the bill ultimately was defeated after passage in the House, some retailers paid attention to only a portion of the Legislative proceedings and interpreted them to signify a go-ahead for sales of explosives similar to those marketed in Missouri, which draws a majority of its fireworks purchasers from Iowa.

"So far this year, we've ordered 100 to 125 retailers statewide to remove certain items from their fireworks displays," assistant Iowa Fire Marshal Roy Marshall said. "They seem to think they can get by with selling more powerful fireworks now that the Legislature has discussed the matter."

Marshall said only three types of explosives _ caps, sparklers and snakes _ are legal in Iowa, but officials have removed more powerful bottle rockets, ladyfingers and Roman candles from retailers' shelves.

"It's carefully outlined to all our retailers that they can sell

only the three kinds," Marshall said. "A lot of them have tried to use the excuse that they thought the Legislature passed the fireworks bill, but that excuse doesn't hold water."

The House approved a measure in March that would have ended a 50-year prohibition of the sale and use of certain fireworks, but the bill fizzled in the Senate Judiciary Committee and never reached the Senate floor for debate.

"I think people just read some of the media reports on (the Legislature's actions), but if they would have followed the whole thing, they would have seen they were wrong," Marshall said.

Although fireworks aficionados may have been dismayed by the Legislature's decision, some Missouri retailers viewed the bill's defeat as a definite blessing.

Stuart Akes, manager of Sav-More Stateline Service Station just south of the Iowa line in Eagleville, Mo., said 80 percent of his revenues are derived from Iowa customers, and he "may as well just shut the place down" if fireworks ever become legal in Iowa.

"We would lose a lot, a whole lot, if Iowa made fireworks legal," Akes said. "We count on the Iowa traffic every year. In Missouri, there are so many places to go that the kids just buy at places near their homes. But in Iowa, there's nowhere to go but south, and we're the closest retailer to Iowa."

A clerk at Shelton Wholesale and Retail Fireworks near Blythedale, Mo., said about 90 percent of that store's traffic comes from Iowa. She said most Iowa fireworks purchasers seem partial to bottle rockets and often buy as much as \$50 worth.

"They buy enough to last them the whole year, I think," she said. "If they could buy them in Iowa, they'd have no reason to come down here, so we'd have to do a lot more marketing in Missouri."

Rod Hutton of Hutton Tire Co. in Eagleville said his firm decided to stop selling fireworks this year because managers believed Iowa would pass the fireworks-legalization bill.

"We sold fireworks for 25 years, but 99 percent of our customers are from Iowa, so we would have had no business to continue if Iowa kids stopped coming down here," Hutton said. "Now that (the Legislature) decided not to legalize them, we'll probably open the display up again next year."

Col. Frank Metzger of the state Highway Patrol said although officials cannot prevent Iowans from buying fireworks elsewhere and bringing them home, they can arrest motorists for transporting explosives without proper authorization.

"In order to bring fireworks across the state line, a vehicle has to have placards, danger signs and red flags clearly visible," he said. "Most of our arrests are made when we see an explosive being thrown from a vehicle."

Illegal transportation of explosives is a misdemeanor offense, which carries a fine of as much as \$100 and mandates a court appearance, Metzger said.

more-more

(iowa, neb.)

Investigators search for defective fireworks

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (UPI) _ Investigators searched the state Thursday for distributors who bought a type of firework that, either through tampering or a manufacturing defect, includes a dangerous piece of metal, the state fire marshal said.

The M88s shipped to the state by Phantom Fireworks Co. of Hong Kong may contain metal pieces that could act like a grenade when exploded, said John Coburn. Investigators were searching the state for the M88s in a recall of the fireworks, he said.

The fireworks were purchased by a number of fireworks distributors in the state.

"Somebody's put a metal washer or a piece of a metal rod in each of these things," Coburn said. When the firecracker is exploded, the metal piece would be "thrown out like a fragmentation grenade."

The metal pieces were not accidentally inserted, Coburn said, although it is possible it could have been a manufacturing defect because each firework contains a similar piece of metal.

The M88's are a Class C firework, which can be legally sold in Missouri. Class C fireworks have limited amounts of explosives. It is illegal for Class A and Class B explosives to be offered for sale to the public.

A fireworks distributor in Dunklin County called the sheriff's office Wednesday and reported that he found a piece of metal in each of the fireworks.

The investigators are trying to find distributors who have purchased the M88's, cut open a sample to look for the metal and confiscate them if necessary, he said.

"All my inspectors are on the road right now," Coburn said Thursday afternoon. "We want to pick all of them up as soon as possible."

He hoped all of the fireworks would be confiscated before Saturday.

Authorities do not know how many shipments of the fireworks had been sent to Missouri or how many had been recalled, he said.

In Nebraska, State Fire Marshal Wally Barnett also warned residents against buying the M88s after a 12-year-old Nebraska City boy was injured when struck by a projectile from the firework.

In addition, about \$250,000 worth of other illegal fireworks have been confiscated from roadside stands in northern Missouri and 17 people arrested, Coburn said.

Most of the stands were close to the Iowa border and along routes stretching from St. Joseph to Kirksville.

The illegal fireworks included M-80s, cherry bombs, torpedoes, M-100s and M-1000s. An M-1000 is about six inches long and has the explosive force of a quarter of a stick of dynamite.

Iowa residents frequent firework stands in Missouri because the sale of any type of fireworks is illegal in Iowa.

3 07-02-87 02:16 ped

Pentagon 'explosion' traced to firecracker

WASHINGTON (UPI) _ Fourth of July fireworks literally got off with

a bang at the Pentagon Thursday when someone exploded a firecracker heard throughout the 22-acre building, heavily protected against terrorist attack.

The Arlington County fire department was called to investigate "an explosion" in the five-story, five-sided building _ the world's biggest office complex with about 23,000 employees.

The firecracker-like device went off on a ramp between the second and third floors of the building, leaving only a puff of smoke and the smell of cordite in its wake, witnesses said.

Four uniformed Federal Protective Service police jogged to the ramp and found nothing but spectators with no suspects to round up.

No one was injured.

11 07-03-87 12:47 pcd

Defective fireworks tough to identify

COLUMBIA, Mo. (UPI) _ It is impossible to identify a defective firework from a good one but there are ways to reduce the chances of accidents, said the director of the Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

"There's no way of knowing which one will go sideways when it's supposed to go up or which one will explode in your hand," said Bruce Piring, the director of the institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"The people who make them can't tell. Although fireworks are manufactured under controlled conditions and defects are rare, there's always the possibility some didn't turn out the way they were supposed to," Piring said.

The best and safest way to enjoy fireworks is to view them at an organized pyrotechnics display, he said.

While there are no safe ways to use fireworks, there are ways for people who insist on buying them to limit their chances of accidents.

"In general, be careful when buying fireworks," he said. "The only kind legally allowed for public sale is Class C fireworks."

Class C fireworks have limited amounts of explosives and should not detonate in mass. It is illegal for Class A and Class B explosives to be offered for sale to the public.

Consumers should not purchase fireworks in packages that are not clearly marked as containing Class C explosives, Piring said.

Also, children should not use fireworks, he said.

"Fireworks are R-rated devices," he said. "They should only be used by adults. Basically, the thing to remember is fireworks are explosives, not toys."

Piring also said firework users should pick low-cut, green grass areas for their blasting sites since the sparks are more likely to ignite long, dry grass.

"And once you buy fireworks, take them home immediately and store them in a cool, dry place away from sources of ignition," he said.

1 06-29-87 08:33 acd

Lincoln fireworks injuries down, violations up

LINCOLN, Neb. (UPI) _ Fewer people have been hurt by firecracker accidents since the City Council restricted the sale and use of fireworks in 1982, but the number of fireworks violations is skyrocketing.

Last year, fireworks injured 12 people in Lincoln and did \$985 worth of property damage, the city fire inspector's office said.

That is down from the 49 people who were treated for fireworks-related injuries at Lincoln hospitals in 1981 _ the year before Lincoln's City Council limited the use of fireworks.

In 1982, with the new restrictions in place, 15 people were injured by fireworks, but violations of fireworks laws has continued to increase.

Police responded to 334 reports of fireworks disturbances in 1984, 609 reports in 1985 and 625 reports last year. Fire Inspector Fred Soflin said more people are complaining about fireworks use.

Last year, police found fewer illegal fireworks _ such as pop-bottle rockets and M-100s. Reports of illegal fireworks decreased from 51 in 1985 to two in 1986.

If Soflin had his way, people would see fireworks only at such public displays as the one at Holmes Lake.

"We teach fire prevention and safety to youngsters 51 weeks a year," Soflin said. "Then one week, parents give their kids \$20 to go get fireworks and matches and everything that we teach against.

The only fireworks allowed for public use in Lincoln are sparklers, Vesuvius fountains, torches, color firecones, star and comet aerial shells and color wheels.

City ordinance outlaws such fireworks as lady fingers, which are legal in the rest of the state.

Fireworks can be sold and set off in Lincoln on July 3 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and July 4 from 8 a.m. till midnight. They may not be sold to people under 18 but people under 18 can light fireworks with adult supervision.

Violating fireworks ordinances is punishable by a fine of \$25 to \$500.

5 06-30-87 02:01 aed

Novelty fireworks get boost
By ALISON GRANT

DAYTON, Ohio (UPI) _ The 1987 Ohio statute allowing the sale of novelty fireworks overrides a Dayton ordinance banning them, a Montgomery County Common Pleas Court judge said when he issued a preliminary injunction against the ordinance.

Monday's ruling favored Mr. Fireworks Inc. of Kokomo, Ind., which had challenged the ordinance outlawing sparklers, noise-makers, snakes, party poppers and other devices.

Although the ruling applies only to Dayton and Mr. Fireworks, Judge Richard Dodge said "the state has definitely intended to pre-empt the entire area of fireworks."

Dodge advised the city to appeal the injunction in order to address what he called confusing language concerning novelties in the state

code.

"In the calmness of a cool November evening," Dodge said, an appeals court could address the "considerable confusion as to what the legislative intent was in enacting all these statutes."

The injunction followed a two-week temporary restraining order against the city that allowed Mr. Fireworks to continue selling its products at Dayton convenience stores.

A Summit County court Friday issued a 14-day restraining order against a similar ordinance in Akron, allowing Sparks Manufacturing to continue selling its novelty products during the holiday season.

William Crabbs, a fireworks wholesaler and distributor, is challenging fireworks bans in Akron and Stow in a lawsuit that asks the court to determine whether local ordinances banning novelties are legal.

Tony Sawyer, Dayton law director, said the city will appeal the preliminary injunction.

Dayton Fire Chief Glenn Alexander testified there has been an increase in fireworks-related incidents since the sale of novelties was approved.

He cited several police and fire department reports on smoke bombs, including one occasion when a smoke bomb was hooked to an automobile's spark plug wires in an apparent attempt to have the device explode when the vehicle was started.

On cross questioning by Robert Kincaid, Jr., the attorney for Mr. Fireworks, Alexander said the reports did not specify whether the smoke bombs were novelties or "military grenade items."

Kincaid also challenged an incident described by suburban Washington Township Fire Chief Dave Cunningham concerning the amount of damage caused by a fire ignited by sparklers earlier this month.

Two children playing with sparklers on the balcony of a condominium started a pine tree on fire, but the blaze was quickly extinguished by a neighbor using a garden hose, Kincaid said.

According to Alexander, the novelties law has weakened the powers of municipal fire chiefs by taking away what was formerly their exclusive jurisdiction to issue permits to shoot fireworks in the state.

The fireworks accident rate during the 1987 Fourth of July season will "probably be the worst record" for Ohio during the past 25 or 30 years, Alexander said.

The preliminary injunction will take effect next week. In the meantime, Mr. Fireworks can continue selling novelties under an extension of the temporary restraining order.

Before issuing the first restraining order, all Mr. Fireworks products sold in Dayton were displayed to Dodge in the parking lot of the Montgomery County courthouse.

8 07-03-87 09:16 aed

\$500,000 in fireworks confiscated in Portage County raid

DEERFIELD, Ohio (UPI) _ As much as \$500,000 in explosives were confiscated from a Portage County fireworks company Thursday in what authorities are calling the largest raid under Ohio's year-old fireworks law.

Some 30 investigators from the state fire marshal's office and six Portage County sheriff's deputies made the arrests at Midwest Fireworks Inc., a Deerfield fireworks manufacturer and retail outlet.

Six people were arrested on charges of illegal fireworks sales and the unlawful renovation of a building housing fireworks.

The raid came one week after undercover agents said they purchased Class C fireworks _ firecrackers and roman candles _ without signing forms required by state law. Agents said they also purchased more powerful explosives without showing a state-required exhibitor's license.

Among the people arrested was Larry Lomaz, described as a former owner of the company.

Lomaz reportedly forfeited control of the company after being convicted in 1985 on charges of posing as a federal agent. When arrested at Midwest on Thursday, Lomaz blamed his arrest on coincidence.

"I haven't been involved for two years," Lomaz said. "I just happened to be here today checking on business."

The business, which has been in Deerfield for more than a decade, used to be known as Buckeye Fireworks.

Lomaz, who was arrested on charges of illegal sales of fireworks and unlawful renovation of a building housing fireworks, said authorities timed the arrest to interfere with busy holiday sales.

"It's ridiculous," Lomaz said. I'm in jail on \$500,000 cash bond for selling fireworks. What kind of country is this?"

Authorities also arrested Paul Rodriguez of Deerfield, Timothy Novelli of Canton and Rebekah Wollam of Deerfield, all identified as Midwest employees. The names of the other two people arrested were not released.

Authorities had an arrest warrant for Lomaz' brother, Doug, who is listed as the principal shareholder in Midwest, but Portage County officials said today they did not know when the arrest would be made.

14 07-04-87 12:54 aed

State, feds cracking down on illegal fireworks
By United Press International

State and federal officials are asking people to observe safety measures during Independence Day celebrations, especially if they are setting off any of the millions of dollars worth of fireworks that are illegally purchased in Ohio yearly.

Billy D. Phillips, chief of the state fire marshal's inspection bureau, said an estimated \$12 million in fireworks would be illegally purchased this year in Ohio.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms records show that 12,603 people were injured by fireworks across the country in 1986, and 50 percent of the people injured were under the age of 15.

"Thousands of eyes, hands, careers and some lives depend on a commitment to safety this Fourth of July," said Stephen E. Higgins, director of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Fire marshal's deputies are investigating the state's 48 licensed fireworks distributors and confiscated some \$500,000 worth of fireworks during what authorities describe as the largest raid ever under Ohio's

year-old fireworks law.

In Deerfield Thursday, 30 investigators from the state fire marshal's office and six Portage County sheriff's deputies raided Midwest Fireworks Inc., a fireworks manufacturer and retail outlet.

Six people were arrested on charges of illegal fireworks sales and the unlawful renovation of a building housing fireworks.

The raid came one week after undercover agents said they purchased Class C fireworks _ firecrackers and roman candles _ without signing forms required by state law. Agents said they also purchased more powerful explosives without showing a state-required exhibitor's license.

Midwest fireworks, which has been in Deerfield for more than a decade, previously was known as Buckeye Fireworks. An explosion at the business in 1982 destroyed a building.

Among the people arrested in the Midwest raid Thursday was Larry Lomaz, described as a former owner of the company.

Lomaz reportedly forfeited control of the company after being convicted in 1985 on charges of posing as a federal agent. When arrested at Midwest on Thursday, Lomaz blamed his arrest on coincidence.

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1 07-01-87 11:17 acd

FIREWORKS CITY U.S.A., Okla. (UPI) _ Both residents of Canadian City voted unanimously Tuesday to change the town's name to Fireworks City U.S.A.

Linda Gray is mayor of the five-acre incorporated municipality, located between Oklahoma City and Mustang. Steve Gray is the city clerk, dogcatcher and law enforcer.

They also operate the only industry _ a fireworks stand.

Steve Gray said he and his wife voted about 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and spent the remainder of the day in suspense, waiting for the votes to be counted.

"We were on pins and needles," he said.

The Grays work at a giant retail fireworks stand owned by William Manley, who bought the town for \$245,000 last December. Manley also owns OK Fireworks Corp.

Gray said the election results were cause for celebration.

"We'll probably holler and shoot off fireworks," he said.

1 06-28-87 04:48 ppd

fireworks' blaze "cost them too much," firefighter says of owners

SALEM, Ore. (UPI) _ A three-alarm fire started in a garage where fireworks were stored for the Fourth of July did extensive damage to the home and destroyed a boat Saturday, a Salem Fire Department official reported.

Two firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion in battling the fireworks' fueled blaze, said Bill O'Neil, a department spokesman.

O'Neil said damage to the home owned by Dennis and Kathy Allen was estimated at \$45,000. He said he did not know the value of the fireworks.

He said of the cost of the fireworks to the owners, "It cost them too much."

The cause of the blaze was under investigation, he said.

O'Neil said the Allen's sons Tim, 13, and David, 10, were in the house alone when they heard noise in the garage and they opened a door and a fireball rolled into the house. He said the boys managed to escape the building without injury.

The fire official said 35 firefighters battled the blaze, which was extended to three-alarms because of the fireworks. He said some of the exploding firecrackers carried to the sidewalks as the garage was demolished along with the 16-foot-long fiberglass boat.

O'Neil said that it was not safe to leave fireworks inside a garage or house since they could be as combustible as gasoline. He said people should keep fireworks in a storage building away from a home or garage.

2 06-29-87 11:33 apd

COTTAGE GROVE, Ore. (UPI) _ Two 12-year-old boys playing with fireworks sparked a fast-moving blaze that heavily damaged a home, destroyed a shop building and ignited spot fires along Interstate 5, officials said.

"Apparently they were playing along the back side of the shed with fireworks that were legal but were using them inappropriately," fire Capt. Ken Johnson said Monday.

The blaze broke out about 5:45 p.m. Sunday, destroying the contents of the older two-story home and extensively damaging the structure.

Embers and burning paint chips spread across a main city thoroughfare and then across Interstate 5, igniting brushfires on both sides of the freeway, Johnson said. They were quickly extinguished.

One unidentified juvenile was taken into custody and released to his parents, he said, and another was being sought. No damage estimate was yet available, Johnson said, adding that neither boy lived in the burned structure.

+ 6 07-03-87 03:51 ped

Authorities crack down on fireworks use

By CAROL SARDINHA

United Press International

Pennsylvania authorities seized crates of illegal fireworks from homes and stores and issued citations to offenders Friday in an effort to reduce explosive-related injuries this July Fourth weekend. Although fireworks are illegal in the state, dozens of Pennsylvanians were injured in fireworks accidents last July Fourth. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated more than 12,600 Americans last year suffered fireworks-related injuries ranging from burns to loss of eyesight.

Those statistics prompted law enforcement agencies in the state to take stonger action this year.

In Pittsburgh, where 25 people were injured in fireworks-related accidents last year, police and fire authorities introduced a special fireworks strike team to crack down on offenders, said Margaret Rizza, a spokeswoman at the city's Public Safety Deaprtment.

"We have some really tough ordinances," said Rizza, noting that all classes of fireworks, even sparklers, are illegal in Pittsburgh.

Anyone who uses, sells, distributes or tranpsorts fireworks can be fined \$1,000 under the city's fire laws, Fire Marshal Kevin Mellott said.

Mellott said fireworks that explode in the air are considered especially dangerous because they can land on rooftops and start fires.

As of Friday, the city's fireworks squad had issued a dozen citations and confiscated more than 300 pounds of fireworks, including firecrackers and various types of rockets, Mellott said.

"We've taken merchandise out of stores, houses, cars and trucks," Mellott said.

In Philadelphia, police Thursday arrested a 72-year-old woman in the city's Northeast section for selling fireworks at her store, said Lt. Bill Markert of the city's Ordinance Disposal Unit.

"I think we're being tougher. I certainly feel that it's a just thing to do," Markert said. "We're prepared to proceed on any situation."

"People put themselves in a position where they're trying to get themselves or others injured," Markert said. "It's foolish."

Philadelphia authorities had confiscated a total of about 35 crates of illegal fireworks as of Friday, Markert said. He said offenders can be fined up to \$300.

Both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh had planned to have professional fireworks displays on July Fourth.

1 07-01-87 12:08 aed

By KEN SUGAR

United Press International

Fireworks merchants in states bordering Georgia say they depend on Georgians to fill their coffers during their annual shopping spree for

pyrotechnics where they are legal.

Georgia is one of a dozen states and the only southern state besides North Carolina where fireworks are banned.

Several attempts by Georgia lawmakers to legalize fireworks have been made in past legislative sessions but have failed in the face of opposition stressing the dangers.

Fireworks retailers and wholesalers from states surrounding Georgia say they don't mind.

"If we depended on the people in South Carolina we would starve," said Paul Paul Brock, owner of Poor Paul's Fireworks in Spartanburg, S.C. "We depend on the Interstate for 90 percent of our business. Our best customers are out of Georgia and North Carolina."

Brock said he will sell an estimated \$25,000 worth of fireworks to Georgians by the Fourth of July.

The store, located on Interstate 85, about 140 miles from Georgia, is decorated with Georgia flags for the annual event, Brock said.

Sherry Pirkle, manager of Fireworks City in Cleburne County, Ala., said the store has relied on Peach state customers since opening 8 years ago.

"That's our business, the people of Georgia," Pirkle said. "We get 99 percent of our business from Georgia."

The store, about the size of "two barns", is located about four miles from the Georgia border off Interstate 20, Pirkle said.

"They don't need to go any further," she said. "We have everything they need right here."

About 12,600 people were treated in hospitals for fireworks injuries last year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The Commission says nationwide consumption of fireworks is about double what it was in 1976 and predicts 52 million pounds will be ignited this year.

3 07-03-87 05:43 ppd

ROY, Utah (UPI) _ Criminal charges are being sought against a fireworks vendor for selling illegal explosives and selling to minors, officials say.

About 100 packages of illegal fireworks, including bottle rockets and firecrackers, were confiscated Wednesday from the Superior Fireworks stand after police and fire officials responded to a parent's complaint, authorities said.

Assistant City Attorney Rosemary Noble said she will file criminal charges against the worker suspected of having made the sales.

Noble was unsure whether charges also could be filed against the stand's owner. A temporary business license was issued June 20 to Nataleen Johnson, Salt Lake City, to expire July 24.

A public hearing is scheduled during Tuesday's City Council meeting to decide whether the license should be revoked.

Ken Johnson, the license holder's husband, said Friday his wife owns about a dozen fireworks stands from Ogden to Provo and it was the first instance of alleged illegal fireworks at the stands.

"Also, hopefully, it will be the last," Johnson said. "That was

an individual thing that happened at one stand. The operator that was working there got fired."

1 07-02-87 02:39 ped

State police are ready for holiday weekend

By TODD SPANGLER

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (UPI) _ The July 4 holiday weekend is no picnic for West Virginia's state police, who instead of sunbathing and watching fireworks spend the time arresting drunk drivers and charging people for twirling sparklers.

That's right _ twirling sparklers. In West Virginia, that is a crime. The statute banning fireworks applies to everything from M-80s to Roman Candles and bottle rockets. It also includes sparklers.

"Most people are surprised that sparklers are on the list," police spokesman Ric Robinson said.

But state police will be concentrating most of their efforts this weekend on trying to keep the fatality count on state roads down.

All available troopers will be patrolling roadways over the July 4 weekend, which began at 6 p.m. Thursday and continues through Sunday for a total of 78 hours, Robinson said.

Last year, during the same period, one fatality was recorded on state highways. Robinson said 450 fatalities were recorded nationwide during the holiday period last year.

Troopers who would normally be working the weekend won't be getting off for the holiday. And, the working days will find state police concentrating on the apprehension of drunk drivers, as well as people violating other traveling laws, the spokesman said.

"The program is working," Robinson said. "We have had a reduction in the number of (traffic related) fatalities every holiday since we started."

Meanwhile, unless you're licensed to do so, don't get caught with fireworks streaming over your backyard in a momentary indulgence of patriotic pyrotechnics.

A little indulgence like that could cost \$100 or 90 days in the county jail, Robinson said.

Last year, state police arrested 38 people in West Virginia for fireworks violations, Robinson said, adding that the number of complaints was in the hundreds.

"If someone lodges a complaint, we have to respond," Robinson said. "If they are in violation of the law, we would have to take some kind of action."

1 03 Mar 88 12:53 Thursday
China-Trample, 25 Trampled To Death In China

BEIJING (AP) - Twenty-five people were trampled to death and 220 injured in

two separate incidents as Chinese across the country turned out to celebrate the traditional Lantern Festival on Wednesday, an official report said.

The Lantern Festival, which falls 15 days after the Lunar New Year, traditionally closes two weeks of festivities and is celebrated with fairs that

draw enormous crowds to admire the colorful and elaborate lanterns on display.

Eighteen people were crushed to death and 113 were injured in Xining, capital of Qinghai province, when 100,000 people who turned out to watch a lantern procession panicked, the official Xinhua News Agency said Thursday.

Seven people were trampled to death and another seven injured in Lankao county, Henan province, as a crowd of 20,000 dispersed after watching a fireworks show, Xinhua said.

The incidents prompted the Ministry of Public Security to issue an emergency circular Thursday calling attention to the problem of crowd control and safety, it said.

05 Sep 86 16:54 Friday
Berlin-Explosion, 34 Hurt In U.S. Base Explosion

BERLIN (AP) _ Devices designed to burn secret documents during emergencies accidentally exploded Friday at a U.S. Air Force radar station near the Berlin Wall and injured 34 Americans, Air Force spokeswomen said.

Spokeswoman Chris Harzstark said 10 people remained hospitalized, and three were undergoing surgery. Although the Air Force originally said five people were seriously injured, Ms. Harzstark said Friday night that there were no serious injuries.

Another Air Force spokeswoman, Staff Sgt. Mary Sellinger, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview the explosion was an accident.

"During a routine training exercise with M-4 emergency document destruction devices an explosion occurred at the U.S. Air Force installation at Marienfelde," she said.

The devices normally are filled with a phosphorous mixture[WRONG – NO PHOSPHORUS /djh/] and are designed to destroy secret documents if the post is being overrun.

She said the exercise was being conducted by explosives ordnance experts to train newly assigned Air Force personnel.

Ms. Harzstark said the military had raised the number of injured from 28 to 34 after a final check with hospitals where the patients were admitted for treatment.

"A total of 34 patients were seen by the U.S. Army hospital and German hospitals. Ten are currently hospitalized and three are undergoing surgery for soft tissue injuries," she said.

"None are listed in serious condition," Harzstark added.

The spokeswoman said one of the injured was a U.S. Department of Defense civilian, two were U.S. Army soldiers, and the rest were Air Force personnel.

The Air Force declined to release the names of the injured pending notification of families.

Sgt. Sellinger said the explosion caused "structural damage" to a nearby wooden building and a military van.

Hessischer Rundfunk radio in Frankfurt reported the accident occurred while Air Force personnel were going through an anti-terrorist exercise.

Asked about the radio report, Sgt. Sellinger said, "No. It was a routine exercise being carried out by ordnance people."

1 09-04-87 01:08 aed

ohio

KEYSERS RIDGE, Md. (UPI) _ A chemical leak from a tractor trailer forced the evacuation of a half-mile area in rural Garrett County and the re-routing of traffic on U.S. Routes 40 and 219, Maryland State Police said today.

Police said no serious injuries were reported.

Officials said the leak was detected about 4:20 p.m. Thursday by a driver who smelled fumes while driving along Route 219 and stopped his rig at the Keyzers Ridge truck stop.

Authorities said they had not determined exactly what substance was leaking from the tractor trailer because it was carrying five different kinds of chemicals in 55-gallon drums.

Pacific Intermountain Express, which owns the rig, told state police the chemicals were: sulfur, aluminum powder, potassium perchlorate, titanium and a resin solution.

Police said the driver of the truck, Robert Turner, 43, of Cincinnati, burned his hands while checking his cargo. He was treated and released at Cumberland Memorial Hospital.

Pacific Intermountain said Turner was hauling material from a New Jersey chemical firm to a fireworks company in suburban Chicago.

As of 1 a.m., state police at the McHenry barracks said the evacuation and other precautions were still in effect and the clean-up effort was expected to take several more hours.

Police did not know how many people were evacuated, but a spokesman said only "a handful" of families lived near the isolated crossroads.

2 09-04-87 08:31 aed

KEYSERS RIDGE, Md. (UPI) _ State police in Western Maryland say it appears there was no chemical leak from a tractor-trailer, contrary to earlier reports.

Authorities evacuated residents living within a half-mile of a truck stop and traffic on Routes 40 and 219 was rerouted around the area.

Police at the McHenry barracks say residents were given permission to go home and all roads were reopened at 2:11 a.m.

Chemical drums were removed from the truck and none of them was leaking, police say, adding it is possible that the barrels were coated with condensation.

The driver of the truck stopped his rig at a Keyzers Ridge truck stop at about 4:20 p.m. Thursday, police say.

Pacific Intermountain Express, which owns the rig, says chemicals on the truck included sulfur, aluminum powder, potassium perchlorate, titanium and a resin solution.

Pacific Intermountain says the truck was hauling material from a New Jersey chemical firm to a fireworks company in suburban Chicago.

The driver of the truck initially said he burned his hands while

checking his cargo. The driver was taken to Cumberland Memorial Hospital.

Police say today it is possible that the driver's hands were not burned.

1 09-03-87 09:18 aed

Two gambling raids on Indian reservation

BRANT, N.Y. (UPI) _ Two shopkeepers were arrested and 33 gambling machines were seized by State Police in raids on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation.

Troopers said 31 electronic slot machines were seized Wednesday at the Seneca Hawk gas station in Brant. Barry Snyder, 47, of Irving, owner and operator of the station, was charged with possession of gambling devices and promoting gambling.

Troopers also raided the Iroquois Smoke Shop on Route 438 in Collins and seized two electronic slot machines. Russ L. John, 31, of Gowanda, owner of the shop, was arrested on the same charges as Snyder.

Both men were issued appearance tickets, troopers said.

An earlier State Police raid on the St. Regis Reservation in the Adirondacks, where \$100,000 worth of fireworks was seized, is currently before a court on jurisdictional grounds.

5 09-03-87 12:48 aed

editors: might be led

Lomaz sues Portage County for fireworks raid

AKRON, Ohio (UPI) _ A fireworks distributor charged with illegal sales has filed a \$10 million lawsuit, claiming state and Portage County officials violated his constitutional rights during a search of his business.

Larry D. Lomaz, former operator of Midwest Fireworks Inc., filed the \$10 million lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Akron. In the suit, Lomaz charges the warrant used to search his business on July 2 was "overly broad."

Agents of the state fire marshal's office said they had made illegal purchases of fireworks at the business before the raid, in which they said they seized \$500,000 worth of Roman candles, firecrackers and other fireworks.

Lomaz said in the suit that more than \$6 million worth of fireworks were seized, along with business and personal records. The business closed as a result of the raid, he said, and Lomaz and three other people were arrested.

Lomaz was charged with illegal fireworks sales. Charges against the other three people were dropped. A county grand jury was considering the case against Lomaz Wednesday and court officials said they expected a decision early today.

Named in the suit are county commissioners; the Common Pleas Court; county Prosecutor John Plough; Sheriff Ross Jamerson; state Fire Marshal William A. Hennosy; Billy J. Phillips, assistant fire marshal; and Kenneth Cox, director of the state Commerce Department.

2 09-04-87 11:47 pcd

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) _ A person would need a permit to buy fireworks under a bill introduced Friday by Senate President Fred Risser, D-Madison.

Risser also sponsored the fireworks sale and possession legislation which was signed into law in 1985.

"But currently there is no prohibition against buying fireworks without a permit. My bill will subject persons buying fireworks without a permit to a penalty along with the fireworks dealers selling them," he said.

Risser's bill also requires a standard permit form be used to provide continuity statewide. Those buying permits for fireworks possession or use will be required to obtain the permits from the jurisdiction where the fireworks will be used, he said.

The changes were requested by the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association and endorsed by the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Childrens' Hospital of Wisconsin, the State Medical Society of Wisconsin and the Association of Wisconsin HMOs, he said.

3 04 Dec 87 10:31 Friday
Cuba-Explosion, 9 Killed In Fireworks Factory

MEXICO CITY (AP) _ An explosion in a Cuban fireworks factory killed nine people, the Cuban government news agency Prensa Latina reported.

Authorities were investigating the cause of the explosion Wednesday in the small factory, which made fireworks for the annual local festival in the central province of Sancti Spiritus, the agency said Thursday.

Four of the victims were killed instantly, another died a few hours later and four others, who had suffered burns and other injuries, died in a hospital on Thursday, Prensa Latina said in a dispatch monitored in Mexico.

Government-controlled Radio Reloj, monitored in Miami, said an undetermined number of people were badly burned at the government-owned fireworks factory in the village of Guayos.

2 04 Dec 87 13:44 Friday
SAfrica-Plane, Bomb Scare Delays S Africa Jet

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) _ South African Airways' first Johannesburg-to-Taipei flight since last weekend's jumbo jet crash was delayed for five hours Friday because of a bomb threat, an airline official said.

SAA spokesman Nico Venter said all passengers and cargo were removed from the Boeing 747 while a search was conducted during a refueling stop on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius.

He said nothing suspicious was found and the plane proceeded to Taipei, Taiwan.

On Saturday, a SAA Boeing 747 flying from Taipei to Johannesburg crashed into the Indian Ocean as it approached Mauritius, killing all 159 people on board.

Authorities have said there is no evidence to support or disprove speculation that a bomb caused the crash.

They also declined to comment on a report in the Pretoria News Friday that the plane was carrying a load of fireworks.

The newspaper said it had received an anonymous call from a man who said he knew there was a large consignment of fireworks on board because "I imported them."

The plane that crashed was a "combi" designed to carry cargo as well as passengers, but SAA has declined to say what cargo was on board.

A fishing boat captain in Mauritius told reporters Thursday that he saw a huge fireball in the sky at the time of the crash.

A Mauritian aviation official was quoted as saying Friday that the pilot of the jet was not panicked when he last made radio contact and believed he could land the plane.

Mauritius is about 800 miles east of Madagascar, itself an island off southern Africa.

SAA has refused to release a 15-minute recording of the conversation between Capt. Dawie Uys and the Mauritian control tower, which was taped just before the crash.

But Maurice Baguant, Mauritian civil aviation chief, was quoted in Business Day, a Johannesburg newspaper, as saying there was "nothing abnormal" in the conversation. He said the pilot felt confident he could land the plane despite smoke in the cabin.

"There was no panic in the last part of the conversation," Baguant said. "The pilot said he was 25 to 30 minutes from the airport. He was given all the landing information. That was the last we heard.

"He acknowledged the landing information. ... There was nothing abnormal. Before that there was some other conversation. He said there was smoke in the plane but he unfortunately did not give any other information about it," Baguant was quoted as saying.

Eleven bodies have been recovered from the ocean. Each recovered part of the plane shows evidence of fire, officials in Mauritius said.

Gert van der Veer, the SAA chief executive, said the tape recording was being withheld from the public because "it might have been misunderstood."

"This (release of the tape) would be unfair because the recording does not cover everything said in the cockpit, only what passed between the pilot and the control tower. It does not give the whole picture."

A South African Supreme Court justice has been appointed by the Transport Ministry to conduct an investigation into the crash.

5 02-03-88 10:50 pcs

(mo.)

Anti-fireworks group gets 1,700 signatures

By SCOTT SONNER

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) _ A citizens group concerned about the danger of firecrackers have submitted a petition with 1,700 signatures to state lawmakers to retain Iowa's prohibition against the sale of Class "C" fireworks.

"The premise is fireworks are safe and that is totally inaccurate," said John Nesbitt of Iowa City, chairman of the Committee Against Legalizing Fireworks in Iowa.

In 1985, 34 deaths and more than 10,000 injuries nationwide were caused by fireworks, he said. About 57 percent of the victims were age 15 or younger and another 24 percent were between the ages of 16 and 25, he said.

"There is no question but the fact the victims are children and youth," Nesbitt said.

The only fireworks currently legal in Iowa are sparklers, snakes and smoke bombs.

A bill legalizing Class "C" fireworks _ including firecrackers, roman candles, fountains, bottle rockets and missiles _ won approval in the Iowa House last year and is available for consideration on the Senate floor this year.

The Senate Judiciary Committee initially rejected the proposal last year on an 8-6 vote, but the bill later won approval when Sen. Ray Taylor, R-Steamboat Rock, and Sen. Gene Fraise, D-Fort Madison, changed their votes from 'no' to 'yes.'

"Our overriding plea is for all representatives and senators to forgo all compromises and negotiations and reject this proposal. This is something beyond politics, beyond negotiations," Nesbitt said.

The bill was pushed through the House with the help of Rep. Daniel Jay, D-Centerville, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who said Iowans currently use fireworks they purchase in Missouri. He argued Iowa businessmen should be enjoying the profits Missouri stores realize by selling those goods.

Rep. Mary Neuhauser, D-Iowa City, said during a Statehouse news conference with Nesbitt she will work hard to block legalization of Class "C" fireworks.

"It has been sold to us as economic development for the state of Iowa. Economic development can go just so far. The first obligation of government is to protect people," Neuhauser said.

"When you sell something in a store, children think it is safe to use," she said.

Mary Jane Murchison, legislative vice president of the Iowa Parent Teacher Association, said it is better to have Iowans drive out of state to get fireworks than to purchase them within the borders.

"People now must go considerably out of the way to break the law, not just down to the corner to break the law," she said.

Andy Nore of the Iowa Council of the United Blind said fireworks caused 1,500 eye injuries nationwide last year.

"A lot of people think this is recreation. That is a false assumption. It is very, very dangerous. We are hoping to get the message to the senators this is a bad idea," he said.

The Iowa Society For the Prevention of Blindness has launched an advertising campaign to combat the dangers of fireworks, including one magazine ad with a picture of children, which reads, "On Halloween you have their candy x-rayed. On July Fourth you give them gun powder and matches."

(refiling)

TULSA, Okla. (UPI) _ Survivors of four workers killed in a 1985 fireworks factory explosion won a \$3 million court judgement against Aerlex Corp. by default when no company representative appeared for the civil trial.

But Tulsa attorney John Nicks said he doesn't expect his clients to collect any of the money because Aerlex hasn't any funds.

Aerlex president Richard Johnson, who now works in Fort Worth, Texas, did not appear for the scheduled trial.

Twenty-one people died in an explosion at the fireworks factory June 25, 1985 near Jennings.

Tulsa District Judge Robert Scott Monday granted a \$750,000 judgement per victim in the deaths of plant employees Virginia Blair, Shirley Burgess, Gayla Jo Burgess and Nancy Beeler.

The suits claim two Aerlex employees negligently handled explosive materials they were unloading from a pickup truck.

11 05 Jul 86 22:26 Saturday
_Fireworks, Fireworks Kill 4, Injure 90

By The Associated Press

Fourth of July fireworks accidents killed four people, including two veteran workers setting up displays, and injured more than 90 others, most of them spectators.

In addition, one person died when she fell off a bluff during a private fireworks show and another died when he set off a homemade pipe bomb.

Fireworks were blamed for a blaze that gutted part of an apartment complex in Anaheim, Calif., leaving 94 families homeless.

A fire and explosion leveled an unoccupied storage building owned by one of the three fireworks firms that put on the Statue of Liberty display, and an antique cannon exploded in New Hampshire, showering shrapnel that hurt five people.

One man was killed during a fireworks show in Madison, Wis. The man was lighting a series of 5-inch mortars when one apparently blew up and hit him in the jaw, police said.

Dane County Deputy Coroner Donald Scullion identified the victim as Jerome Heim, 33, of Seymour, Wis., an employee of the Spielbauer Fireworks Co. of Green Bay.

In Edgewater, Fla., a mortar exploded on Firecracker Island and killed volunteer Fire Chief George Kennedy, 39, as he was loading some of the town's \$5,500 worth of fireworks, said Volusia County Sheriff's Capt. Ed Carroll.

A Huntsville, Ala., youth was killed and two people were injured Friday night when fireworks exploded inside a van and fire swept through the vehicle, said police spokesman Ronnie Fudge.

Fudge identified the victim as Gregory Wayne Myers, 14, of Huntsville.

In the Chicago suburb of Batavia, Jason Kraft, 17, was killed in an explosion at a friend's house, where two other youths who were not injured said he had been mixing powder taken from fireworks, according to a release from Batavia police.

At Rehoboth, Mass., spectators at the town's celebration said fireworks

suddenly burst into flames and shot into the crowd, about 150 yards away. Police said seven people were treated at the scene and 18 others were taken to hospitals.

Thirty people suffered minor burns and cuts when a rocket went into the stands at a fireworks show in the Ironbound Stadium at Newark, N.J.

In Rockport, Texas, fireworks exploded about 10 minutes into a show on Rockport Beach north of Corpus Christi, and six people were injured.

A fireworks accident Thursday injured eight people at Dunwoody, Ga., including a 9-year-old girl who underwent minor surgery for burns and possible shrapnel wounds.

In Goose Ile, Mich., sparks from rockets during the finale of the city's fireworks show set off other rockets aboard a barge in the Detroit River, panicking a crowd of about 500 people.

Nine Los Angeles youngsters were injured in fireworks accidents, two of them critically.

A 24-year-old man in Quincy, Mass., died when a copper pipe he had filled with a pound of gunpowder exploded in Braintree, said police Detective Brian Hickman. He said David A. Gobbi had tied the bomb to a tree in a wooded area before he tried to detonate it.

Near Monteagle, Tenn., a woman was killed and two were injured when they fell from a bluff while shooting fireworks early Saturday. Police Chief Lee Parker identified the victim as Cindy F. Christ, 19.

20 04 Jul 86 23:49 Friday
_Fireworks, Newark Rocket Goes Astray

By The Associated Press

A rocket from a fireworks display went astray and landed among spectators at in a Newark, N.J., stadium, injuring up to 30 people Friday night, while an antique cannon exploded at the home of a Milford, N.H., official, showering shrapnel that hurt five people.

Fireworks exploded on the ground at an informal show on a Texas beach, injuring seven people, two of them seriously.

The injuries in the Fourth of July accident at Newark's Ironbound Stadium were mostly minor burns and cuts, according to hospital officials.

"One of the rockets went haywire or something," according to a Newark police dispatcher. "It went right into the stands."

About eight ambulances were sent to the July Fourth fireworks show east of downtown, said police Lt. Joseph Pandolfo. He didn't know how many people attended the display.

The cannon explosion occurred at 5:15 p.m. during a barbecue at the home of Milford, N.H., town moderator Robert Philbrick. Former town selectman William English was lighting the black-powder cannon when it exploded, hurling shrapnel for hundreds of feet.

English was in fair condition at St. Joseph Hospital with leg injuries, while another guest, also in fair condition, suffered abdominal injuries. One other adult was hospitalized and two were treated and released.

Shrapnel penetrated the wall of a home 300 feet away, police said.

In Rockport, Texas, there was an explosion about 10 minutes into the 9:15 p.m. EDT show on Rockport Beach north of Corpus Christi.

"The fireworks display was going on, and all of a sudden there was the most beautiful sight you could see but it was on the ground," said Aransas

County Sheriff Robert Hewe. "It was too low and too bright."

Hewe had no details on the injuries.

Other fireworks accidents Thursday injured eight people in Georgia and a teen-ager in Washington.

In Atlanta, 9-year-old Allison Yother, underwent minor surgery for burns and possible shrapnel wounds she received in the misfire at the "Shoot The Works" display Thursday at mall in suburban Dunwoody, Ga., officials said.

Two adults also were taken to a hospital for treatment, and five others received first aid at the scene, said Carla Redding, a spokeswoman for Perimeter Mall. The injured adults included three fireworks crew members.

A preliminary investigation indicated that the bottom of a firing tube blew out after the rocket was lit, throwing the device about 100 yards and breaking up a rack of rockets already lit, said a DeKalb County arson squad spokesman.

Mr-Fireworks_, Zambelli: The Wizard of Aahs

By Bob Dvorchak

NEW CASTLE, Pa. (AP) _ George Zambelli will put the pow and sizzle in 1,400 fireworks shows on the Fourth of July, but his eyes light up like Roman candles when he talks of the pyrotechnics of the Statue of Liberty celebration.

"There's going to be so much going on. You're going to be startled and fascinated. The goal is to make it one of its kind. It's got the finest the world has to offer," said Zambelli, 60.

He is president of Zambelli Internationale, one of the fireworks makers sharing in the 28-minute, \$2 million fireworks show called the Big Bang, which is part of the statue's centennial extravaganza. It begins at 9:30 p.m. Friday.

"That half hour is going to go by so fast. You're going to think you were there for the full night," Zambelli said in a recent interview.

Zambelli, known as "Boom Boom" and "Mr. Fireworks," runs a 93-year-old business in this blue-collar community about 40 miles north of Pittsburgh. He calls it the world's largest and oldest manufacturer and exhibitor of fireworks.

His displays have dazzled kings and queens, presidents and popes, boy scouts and sheiks. He provides the pop for the national holidays, the equivalent of the U.S. Fourth of July, in Kuwait and Bolivia.

He has recreated ship battles and army clashes in the sky. And in 1977, he fired shells at the funeral of steelworker Antonio Nerti of West Pittsburgh, who asked for graveside pyrotechnics in his will.

On the Fourth, Zambelli's creations will amuse gleeful watchers with mammoth shows at the Statue of Liberty and the Washington Monument down to a lilliputian 50-shell burst at Camp Kennybrook in Monticello, N.Y.

"A customer is a customer. It doesn't matter what size. They're having a celebration just like everybody else. It means as much to them, maybe more. No job is too small," said Zambelli.

The Liberty bash, however, is extra special because Antonio Zambelli, the company's founder and George's father, came through the immigration center at Ellis Island. It was there he met his wife, Maria Geueseppe.

For the Big Bang, 40 barges will form a necklace-like rim around the Statue of Liberty and fire 40,000 shells set to music. The fireworks for the Brooklyn Bridge centennial featured nine barges and 10,000 shells.

Zambelli has made 10,000 shells for his part of the show. His handiwork will be featured in the playing of the song "Santa Lucia," a tribute to the Italians who immigrated to America.

Others taking part in the show include Austin Fireworks Inc. of Wichita, Kan.; Garden State Fireworks of Millington, N.J.; Fireworks By Grucci of Bellport, N.Y.; Pryo Spectaculars of Rialto, Calif.; and Rozzi's Famous Fireworks of Loveland, Ohio.

Zambelli works with his brothers, Louis and Joseph, who are master pyrotechnicians.

They pack by hand shells made of paper, paste and twine and dry them in the sun, much the same way as 17th century workmen did.

Magnesium, aluminum, copper, iron, barium, titanium and other chemicals are added to black powder to give color and brilliance. Like a secret Italian recipe, the chemicals are mixed in concealed amounts.

To detonate, shells are dropped into a cast iron mortar and the main fuse is lit, propelling them skyward with a characteristic "whump." After an expectant pause, the shells explode in a burst of color and canon-like booms.

"Americans love noise," said Zambelli, who began his career in fireworks at age 7 by rolling paper tubes.

30 Jun 86 18:08 Monday

WASHINGTON (AP) _ Courtroom fireworks over the awarding of a coveted contract for the Fourth of July celebration in the nation's capital fizzled Monday when a federal judge refused to halt plans for the extravaganza.

U.S. District Judge Joyce Hens Green dismissed complaints by the Zambelli Internationale Fireworks Manufacturing Co. that the contract was awarded improperly to the rival Vitale Fireworks Manufacturing Co. The two are among the nation's oldest fireworks companies.

"There's going to be a fireworks performance and we're going to give one of our best performances ever," said Rocco Vitale Jr., president of the 64-year-old New Castle, Pa., company.

"We realize it's a showcase," Vitale said of the annual display, which takes place on the Mall against a backdrop of the nation's most recognized monuments. "And we're going to put a showcase on, provided we don't get any more of these delays."

Lawyers for Zambelli, which is also headquartered in New Castle, argued that Vitale's insurance was not adequate to cover the requirements for the show.

But the judge said in her written opinion that the city and the National Park Service had been satisfied with Vitale's coverage. Zambelli's lawyers have "offered only speculation as to dangersto the health and safety of the public which might occur if the required insurance does not, in fact, exist."

She dismissed Zambelli's contention that his bid that he could do a show for \$35,000 _ \$5,000 less than Vitale _ saying that the cost difference was only one of the things the park service examined in awarding the contract.

The Zambelli company, which is 81 years old, has put on most of the fireworks shows in Washington since 1958.

As in previous years, the fireworks display will be 30 minutes long. But

the National Park Service, because of complaints about rowdy behavior, has scheduled U.S. Army jazz and blues bands rather than rock groups to entertain the crowd in the hours before the fireworks go off.

The park service expects at least 200,000 people on the Mall for the fireworks, with thousands of others viewing the spectacle from vantage points around the Washington area.

1 05-06-88 09:58 ppd

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) _ Annlyn Zambelli, vice president of Zambelli International Fireworks company and daughter of the founder, will be married in Las Vegas Saturday.

"This is an two fold event," said Dr. George Zambelli Jr., of Rochester, Pa., the bride's brother. "The princess of fireworks is getting married and we are having fireworks. There is some anxiety. After the rocket plant explosion people might get the perception of 'here we go again'."

He referred to a series of explosions Wednesday which destroyed the Pacific Engineering rocket propellant plant in Henderson, Nev.

Zambelli fireworks will be touched off outside St. Viator's Catholic Church about 2:30 p.m. Saturday during the wedding mass followed by a nighttime fireworks display at the Caesars Palace Hotel wedding reception.

"We have put together the kind of fire works they don't use anymore. These fireworks are going to have a lot more percussion " said Zambelli. "You will be able to see them all over town, but the percussion will be one of the highlights. They are louder and make more noise like the fireworks used by our country-cousins in Italy."

Annlyn Zambelli, 28, of New Castle, Pa., vice president of "Zambelli International Fireworks, The First Family of Fireworks", will marry Michael Richards, 30, of New Castle, Pa., a plant manager in the firm's headquarter city.

The Zambelli company has done firework displays at the White House for six consecutive presidents including the innauguration of President Carter and President Reagan and lighted the skies for Prince Charles' royal wedding in Great Britian, said Zambelli.

1 11-05-87 03:01 pcs

Big firecracker damages six school lockers

WESLACO, Texas (UPI) _ Police Thursday arrested three students allegedly responsible for igniting a large fireworks cone inside a locker at Weslaco High School.

The resulting blast damaged six hallway lockers but no one was injured, police officer Ed Ponce said.

The M-80 cone-shaped firecracker exploded loudly about 10 a.m., causing school officials to evacuate the building until police inspected the damage. Classes later resumed.

"It was called in as a bomb threat, but we determined it was not a bomb. it was one of those M-80-type firecrackerrrs. It did cause damage to about six lockers," Ponce said.

Police said two adult students and a juvenile were taken into custody for questioning about the dangerous prank.

1 06 Nov 87 04:03 Friday
Philippines-Fire, Fireworks Explosions Kill 10

MANILA, Philippines (AP) _ An explosion at the heart of the nation's outlawed fireworks industry sparked a fire that destroyed several plants and left 10 people dead, 30 injured and 20 missing, an official said Friday.

The fire, started by a can of gunpowder exploding, occurred Thursday in Bocaue, 15 miles north of Manila, the town's mayor, Rudy David, said Friday in a television interview. The fire was extinguished in four hours, he said.

Bocaue is the center of the Philippines' fireworks industry, which has been outlawed since 1966 but which authorities are unable to stamp out because of tradition and alleged corruption among law enforcers.

David appealed to President Corazon Aquino to consider either legalizing the trade and closely supervising it or stopping it completely.

The fire began inside a shop where workers were making firecrackers, officials said. They said the blaze spread quickly through rows of other fireworks factories, detonating firecrackers and pyrotechnique products stocked up for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Witnesses said successive loud explosions could be heard more than two miles away during the height of the fire.

The blaze, which officials said destroyed \$3.5 million in property, came two months after a similar fire in Bocaue killed five people.

The Philippine government outlawed the manufacture and sale of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic products after a fire killed 26 people in the neighboring town of Meycauayan in 1966.

A similar fire killed about 50 people in Santa Maria 10 years earlier.

Despite the ban, the manufacture and sale of fireworks continue openly.

Officials say they cannot enforce the ban because the use of pyrotechnics has become a deeply ingrained tradition, especially during the Christmas holidays. Even the government uses firecrackers and fireworks displays during special celebrations.

Often, dealers and officials charge, police confiscate shipments of firecrackers from Bocaue to the city only to sell them themselves.

2 08-05-86 06:37 ped

ARREST REPORTED

BETHANY, Conn. (UPI) _ A Waterbury man was arrested Tuesday and charged with gambling and fireworks charges, state police said.

John Diogostine, 40, turned himself in to state police at the Bethany barracks and was charged with one count of professional gambling and one count of possession of fireworks, police said.

He was released on a written promise to appear in Waterbury Superior Court Aug. 19.

Police said the arrest resulted from an investigation into alleged telephone bookmaking operations in the Waterbury area and a search of Diogostine's home last month. The investigation is continuing.

2 08-08-86 09:53 acd

TULSA, Okla. (UPI) _ A fireworks factory that exploded in northeastern Oklahoma in 1985, killing 21 workers, was owned by a "sham corporation" set up to protect the real owner, a suit filed in Tulsa County Court alleges.

The \$3 million suit was filed Thursday by the families of four workers killed in the June 1985 explosion that destroyed the fireworks factory near the northeastern Oklahoma town of Hallett.

The families allege that Aerlex Corp., owned by Richard Alan Johnson, was set up to protect OK Fireworks Inc. from "liability for the consequences of the ultra-hazardous activity it conducted."

Robert Flanagan of OK Fireworks disputed the claim.

"They're reaching out for blue sky," Flanagan said. "That just sounds like an attorney trying to make some money for himself."

Tulsa attorney John B. Nicks, who filed the suit, said a \$35,925 real-estate mortgage on the Aerlex property held by OK Fireworks is evidence of the real ownership of the fireworks factory. The mortgage was signed in 1980.

Johnson has said that OK Fireworks loaned his company the money to help rebuild after a 1979 explosion and fire. OK Fireworks was Aerlex's largest customer until the 1985 disaster.

The suit was filed on behalf of Henry and Betty Blair, next-of-kin to Virginia A. Blair; Gaylord Burgess, next-of-kin to Shirlea Burgess and Gayla Jo Burgess; and Virginia Gonzalis, next-of-kin to Scott Lee Hartley.

The families are asking for \$750,000 in damages for each of the four deaths.

1 04-06-88 09:49 acd

PONTIAC, Mich. (UPI) _ A man who lost an eye when a skyrocket exploded in his face during a Fourth of July celebration is suing his parents, claiming they should not have let him set off fireworks when he was visibly intoxicated.

The suit was filed Tuesday in Oakland County Circuit Court by Kent LaDuc, 34, of Pontiac, against his parents, Irving and Crystal LaDuc.

LaDuc also claims in the suit that his parents should not have staged a fireworks display at their cottage on July 4, 1986, because they were not licensed for such a display.

He also sued the fireworks salesman and Anderson Honda of Bloomfield Hills for allowing the salesman to sell the fireworks on their property. The salesman sold fireworks from the back of a truck, LaDuc's lawyer said.

Irving LaDuc said he thinks his son filed the lawsuit to force an insurance company settlement.

1 04-03-88 12:27 pcd

ST. LOUIS (UPI) _ An investigation was launched Sunday into the cause of a house fire that resulted in three deaths, a fire official said.

The Saturday night fire on the city's north side killed Jack Garner, 3, and his brother, Jamel, 2.

Fire officials said a man in his early 20s has not yet been identified.

Capt. Louis Becton of the St. Louis Fire Department said firefighter Ray Sarkis was injured when a burst of fire knocked him down as he entered the front door of the two-story home. Sarkis is listed in satisfactory condition Sunday at St. Louis University Hospital.

The fire began at 8:13 p.m. Becton said flames were leaping from the windows when firefighters arrived. Because the fire moved rapidly through the house, agents of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were called to investigate the possibility of a fireworks explosion. But that later was ruled out.

Becton said the fire appeared to be concentrated in the kitchen and rear of the house. The adult and one of the children were found on the kitchen floor and the other child was found under a bed in a rear bedroom.

The fire gutted the home.

3 05-05-87 01:25 aed

MARENGO, Ohio (UPI) _ Officials are trying to determine the cause of an explosion at a fireworks plant that killed a Marengo man.

Derral Sharp, 51, an employee of the Columbus Fireworks Co., died at Morrow County Hospital in Mount Gilead about two hours after the Monday afternoon accident.

Marengo Fire Chief John Messmer said the man was mixing powders outside a shed when the blast occurred in the shed near the plant's warehouse and office.

The blast caused about \$500 damage, the chief said, and the warehouse and office were not damaged.

"It's one of those freak accidents," Messmer said. "It's one of the safest jobs out there. No one can figure out why or how it happened."

Agents of the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office were summoned to investigate.

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(III.)

BELOIT, Wis. (UPI) _ A Rock County Circuit judge Thursday refused to dismiss a charge of homicide by reckless conduct against the owner of a Beloit fireworks company.

Larry Cornellier Sr., who listed his address as South Beloit, Ill. and Beloit, is charged in the March 1983 death of Dennis Whitt, 26, who died when a fireworks factory owned by Pyro Science Development Corp. exploded in Milton.

Cornellier's attorney had argued there were insufficient facts in

the criminal complaint to warrant the charge and the state had not proved its contention of reckless conduct.

"Reckless conduct is an act, and maybe by omission Mr. Cornellier was not as careful as he should have, but it was not a single act of reckless conduct," said Attorney John Olson.

But Rock County Circuit Judge J. Richard Long said if Cornellier was aware that a fireworks manufacturing facility was dangerous, and the state can prove the facts it put in the complaint, a jury could find him guilty of the charge.

Long set a hearing date of June 9 for a motion brought by Olson contending the district attorney had willfully omitted certain facts in the complaint that would have exonerated his client.

The hearing will determine whether or not a second hearing will be held to give Olson a chance to present the facts he feels were admitted.